Hafa Adai!

CNMI flag is raised at National Museum of American History. **PAGE 6**

$1K bail set for habitual vandalizer. **PAGE 11**

$1

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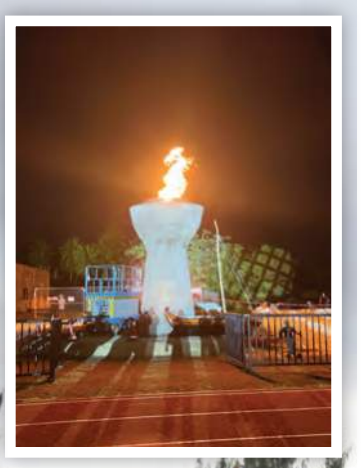
By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Pacific Games Council president Vidya Lakhan praised the CNMI last Friday during the opening ceremony of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 for delivering on its hosting of the Games despite the many obstacles that blocked the path to last Friday's ceremony at the Oleai Sports Complex.

See CNMI on Page 4



MARK RABAGO

The CNMI delegation to the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 greets visitors, spectators, and VIP dignitaries in the main grandstand of the Oleai track and field during the opening ceremony last Friday. Inset right shows the Games cauldron after being lit by NMSA Hall of Famer Dr. Kurt Barnes. Other inset shows Pacific Games Council president Vidya Lakhan addressing the crowd.

'CNMI came through with flying colors'

'People will start getting stimulus cards tomorrow.' **PAGE 2**

CNMI lifts pre-arrival COVID testing requirement. **PAGE 3**

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE

LOCAL
This year's Taste of the Marianas welcomes delegates from 20 countries and territories.
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LOCAL
The Governor's Council of Economic Advisers has unveiled the new Marianas Village Flags.
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HEALTH & WELLNESS
The Unites States on Saturday opened COVID-19 vaccines to infants, toddlers and preschoolers.
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Local

WITH 23,000 SECOND STIMULUS CARDS ARRIVING FRIDAY

Torres, Atalig say people will start getting stimulus cards tomorrow

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres disclosed Friday that people may start getting their second Local Economic Impact Payment debit card tomorrow, Tuesday, as 23,000 debit cards were set to arrive that day, Friday.

Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig confirmed yesterday with *Saipan Tribune* that the debit cards arrived this weekend and that the cards will be in mailboxes this week.

Atalig said that up to $26 million is reserved for the program.

"That is how much we distributed last time," he added.

He earlier stated that the release of cards should start tomorrow, Tuesday, as today, Monday, is a holiday.

At a press briefing, Torres said they are going to forward the cards that day, Friday, to Rota and Tinian.

On Saipan, Torres said they are hoping that the U.S. Postal Service will start distributing the cards as soon as possible.

"Because of the bulk that comes in, everybody's card will be sent through mail," he said.

The governor said they are releasing about $26 million in this second stimulus package.

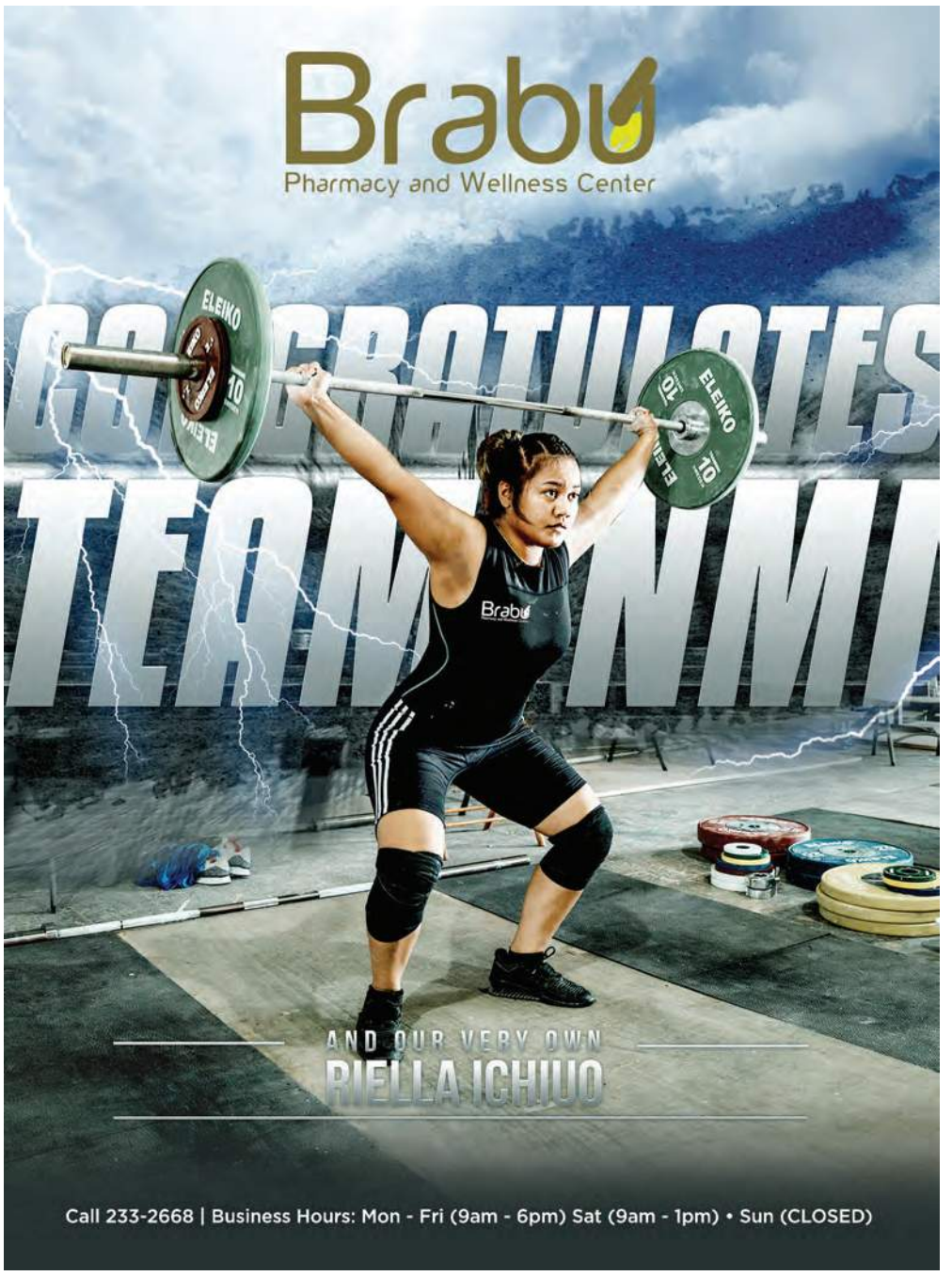
Torres urged everybody to use the money so that it can assist their financial needs and stimulate the CNMI's economy.

Atalig recently stated that they have allocated $25 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding for this second local stimulus, where they will give $500 to each eligible filer and dependent in the CNMI. Atalig said $17 million will be initially distributed.

He encouraged those who have not filed their income tax returns and for those who are zero income filers to get their tax return submitted.

Atalig said these debit cards must be used by Jan. 31, 2023.

He said their focus is to help the local economy and, in turn, it helps the government receive business gross receipts.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Probable cause found to try two accused of raping minor

The Superior Court has found probable cause to try two men accused of raping a minor at a beach in Susupe.

Last week, Superior Court Judge Wesley Bogdan found probable cause to try Tim Onopey and Frankie Rettanlug for the charges of sexual assault in the first degree for allegedly raping a 17-year-old girl last May 29, at the beach near Guma Sakman.

At the hearing, Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds of the Office of the Attorney General Criminal Division appeared for the government. Attorney Robert T. Torres and assistant public defender Vina Seelam were appointed to represent Onopey and Rettanlug, respectively.

Both defendants remain in Department of Corrections custody after failing to post the $50,000 cash bail.

Both men have since pleaded not guilty to the charges against them.

According to court documents, Onopey gave the minor a beer before repeatedly asking her to swim with him. The victim said she accepted the beer and eventually agreed to go swimming. She told police that she and Onopey swam to the buoy and that's when Onopey allegedly sexually assaulted her.

The 17-year-old told police she tried to move away from Onopey but every time she did so, he would pull her back. The victim said she repeatedly asked Onopey to stop, to no avail.

After the alleged sexual assault, the victim said they swam to shore but she was afraid to get help because Onopey was still in the area.

While on the shore, the minor said she was feeling dizzy and felt like she was going to faint, so she lied down to rest and eventually fell asleep.

When she woke up, she said Rettanlug approached her and asked what happened to her and Onopey and then invited her to go closer to the shoreline.

When she refused, the victim said Rettanlug dragged her to the beach where Rettanlug sexually assaulted her. The victim said she managed to get away from him but he grabbed her legs and dragged her back so she kicked water in his face, which caused him to stop.

When she got away, she said she went to where there were people she could talk to about the incident.

In a separate statement to police, Rettanlug allegedly admitted to sexually assaulting the minor and that he knew she was 17 years old because he overheard Onopey asking her how old she was. ***(Kimberly B. Esmores)***

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Basa's probation revoked anew

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has revoked the probation of Francisco Nakatsukasa Basa again and has sentenced him to 12 months and one day in prison after he admitted to using illegal drugs while on probation.

Following Basa's initial appearance last Friday, Chief Judge Ramona Manglona ordered that the supervised release of the defendant be revoked and that he serve a term of imprisonment of 12 months plus 1 day, with credit for time served.

The judge did not impose supervised release and instead stated that she would recommend to the Bureau of Prisons that Basa be allowed to serve his imprisonment on Saipan.

Basa was then remanded to custody of the U.S. Marshal following the hearing.

At the hearing, Basa admitted to the allegations in the petition to revoke his probation. Basa admitted to using methamphetamine or "ice" on May 5 and 11, and submitted a diluted urine sample on May 16.

Originally, Basa was sentenced to a 54-month imprisonment term followed by a five-year term of supervised release with conditions.

On July 23, 2010, the U.S. Probation Office reported that Basa admitted to drinking alcohol and committing a crime.

His release conditions were modified on Jan. 11, 2011, to include a three-month term of home confinement because he pleaded guilty to assault and battery and admitted to using "ice."

Since then, his probations have been revoked several times. mostly because of his continued used of "ice."

CNMI lifts pre-arrival COVID testing requirement

With approximately 62.7% of those fully vaccinated having received a booster shot and the current COVID-19 Community Level of the CNMI set at "Low," entry protocols have been updated.

Effective June 13, 2022, all travelers inbound via air or sea are not required but are highly encouraged to fill out the CNMI health declaration form if their return trip requires COVID-19 testing.

In accordance with U.S. regulations, air passengers from international destinations will not need to get tested and show a negative COVID-19 test result, or show documentation of recovery from COVID-19, prior to boarding a flight to the U.S.

All travelers should continue to wear a well-fitted mask based on their personal preference after arrival if they must be around others, and if they develop symptoms, they should get tested at least five days after arrival.

All travelers wishing to avail themselves of free COVID-19 or fifth-day testing must register at https://covidtesting.chcc.health.

All travelers and residents are reminded to live COVID-19 safe: follow the 3 W's (wear your mask, wash your hands, and watch your distance); avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces; cover coughs and sneezes; clean and disinfect high touch surfaces daily; be alert for symptoms daily; and get tested for COVID-19.

Community Level Low

With the new U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention metric, the CNMI is currently in Community Level Low.

A combination of three factors determines the COVID-19 Community Level:

1. New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population in the past 7 days;

2. The percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients;

3. Total new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in the past seven days.

The COVID-19 Community Level is determined by the higher of the new admissions and inpatient beds metrics, based on the current level of new cases per 100,000 population in the past seven days.

To date, cases are continuously detected via Community-Based Testing, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. testing, as well as at-home testing. As of June 12, 2022, a total of 11,482 cases of COVID-19 have been reported in the CNMI.

Recommendations for individual persons and households based on COVID-19 Community Levels:

I. HIGH

1. Wear a well-fitting mask indoors in public, regardless of vaccination status (including in K-12 schools and other indoor community settings)

2. If you are immunocompromised or have a high risk for severe disease:

■ Wear a mask or respirator that provides you with greater protection;

■ Consider avoiding non-essential indoor activities in public where you could be exposed;

3. Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions (e.g., testing);

4. Have a plan for rapid testing if needed (e.g., having home tests or knowing how to access testing);

5. Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you are a candidate for treatments like oral antivirals, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), and monoclonal antibodies;

6. If you have household or social contact with someone at high risk for severe disease:

■ Consider self-testing to detect infection before contact;

■ Consider wearing a mask when indoors with them;

■ Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters;

■ Maintain improved ventilation throughout indoor spaces whenever possible;

■ Follow CDC recommendations for isolation and quarantine, including getting tested if you are exposed to COVID-19 or have symptoms of COVID-19.

II. MEDIUM

1. Wear a mask based on your personal preference, informed by your personal level of risk b. If you are immunocompromised or have a high risk for severe disease;

2. Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions (e.g., testing);

3. Have a plan for rapid testing if needed (e.g., having home tests or knowing how to access testing);

4. Talk to your healthcare

See COVID on Next Page

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Senate passes bill to exempt CPA's airport revenues from paying 1% OPA fee

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate unanimously passed Friday a bill that would exempt the Commonwealth Ports Authority from paying the 1% Office of the Public Auditor fee for airport revenues.

At a Senate special session, with eight senators voting "yes," House Bill 22-102, HS1, HD1, now goes to the governor's desk. Sen. Karl King-Nabors (R-Tinian) was absent but was excused from the session.

Last June 13, despite the strong opposition by the Office of the Public Auditor, the House passed House Bill 22-102, HS1, HD1.

House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) is the main author of the legislation.

It was only Reps. Christina E. Sablan, Leila F. Staffler, and Edwin K. Propst who voted against the passage of the bill. All are Democrats.

Public Auditor Kina B. Peter asked House members not be pressured into voting for a legislation that is very impactful to a CNMI regulatory agency.

CPA does not object being charged the 1% OPA fee for non-airport revenues.

During the public comments portion of the Senate special session Friday, Commonwealth Ports Authority board member Pete Reyes urged the senators to pass the legislation.

Reyes said since May of this year, CPA management has been having weekly meetings with Federal Aviation Administration officials in order to correct past audit findings and in order to address the OPA 1% fee law.

Reyes said during this meeting, FAA has stated that CPA's remittance of the 1% OPA fee would be in violation of CPA's federal grant assurances.

He said the bill before the Senate addresses the issue and that its passage is important in order to clear the way for CPA to receive and continue receiving current and additional federal funding.

Before the voting of the bill, Sen. Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) said she took the liberty to make a call on June 15, 2022, with independent auditor Deloitte. DeLeon Guerrero said her call was primarily to validate if there is any revenue diversion stated in CPA's audit report.

She said the response was that for fiscal year 2020 audit, there was no mention of revenue diversion.

Additionally, the senator said, FAA's letter dated May 16, 2022, does not provide a definitive finding or decision by FAA that there is indeed a revenue diversion. Instead the FAA letter reads "may be considered revenue diversion," she said.

DeLeon Guerrero said CPA's booking of the 1% OPA fee, but not paying it out is not revenue diversion. She said it's merely a business book entry of debiting expense and crediting payables, cash or any other appropriate account to complete the credit entry and down the line with end of the year adjusting book entries as well considering the non-payout of the 1%.

DeLeon Guerrero agreed with Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig that having the CNMI serve as a guarantor with its full faith and credit when bonds are floated, whether it is for CPA or any other independent autonomous entity, comes with a cost for doing business and as such, the government must tread carefully when putting the entire CNMI as collateral and not impose on the cost of doing business.

"I find comfort that House Bill 22-102, HS1, HD1, provides OPA the ability to bill for its services, if any under the airport operations while applying in its entirety, the OPA 1% on seaport," the senator said.

DeLeon Guerrero also stated she does not object to the disposal of her similar bill to yield to the House's legislation.

With eight senators voting "yes," Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said Senate Bill 22-51 that Deleon Guerrero introduced is hereby filed.

COVID

From Page 3

provider about whether you are a candidate for treatments like oral antivirals, PrEP, and monoclonal antibodies;

5. If you have household or social contact with someone at high risk for severe disease:

■ Consider self-testing to detect infection before contact

■ Consider wearing a mask when indoors with them

■ Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters

■ Maintain improved ventilation throughout indoor spaces whenever possible

■ Follow CDC recommendations for isolation and quarantine, including getting tested if you are exposed to COVID-19 or have symptoms of COVID-19.

III. LOW (Current level as of June 14, 2022)

1. Wear a mask based on your personal preference, informed by your personal level of risk

2. If you are immunocompromised or have a high risk for severe disease:

■ Have a plan for rapid testing, if needed (e.g., having home tests or access to testing);

■ Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you are a candidate for treatments like oral antivirals, PrEP, and monoclonal antibodies;

■ Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters;

■ Maintain improved ventilation throughout indoor spaces whenever possible;

■ Follow CDC recommendations for isolation and quarantine, including getting tested if you are exposed to COVID-19 or have symptoms of COVID-19.

Community-Based Testing

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC will continue to ensure every individual in the CNMI has access to information about COVID-19, COVID-19 testing, and therapeutic treatments without barriers.

Individuals who are experiencing mild symptoms may get tested at the Koblerville COVID-19 Community Center (KC3). The testing schedule is available at https://covidtesting.chcc.health. The KC3 is open 7 days a week, 7:30am – 4:30pm, Monday to Friday, and 8am – noon, Saturday and Sunday.

For PCR test results, the CNMI Test Team may be reached at (670) 785-9969, 785-9970, 785- 9972, or 287-7571. For Travel Testing, call (670) 287-7570 or 785-9966.

The travel clearance office will operate during the following hours at KC3:

■ Monday–Friday: 7:3am–4:30pm

■ Saturday and Sunday: 8am–12pm

At-home test kits are available at local pharmacies or general stores. Free at-home COVID-19 test kits are available at www.covidtests.gov.

Testing positive

If you test positive on any COVID-19 test (Community-Based Testing, KC3, antigen testing, or at home), stay home for at least five days and isolate from others.

COVID-19 treatment is available for eligible residents of the CNMI who test positive for COVID-19 by reporting their positive test result online at www.staysafecnmi.com/self-reporting within five days of the test result date. Residents requesting COVID-19 treatment should fill out the medical questionnaire in the form to get assessed as soon as possible. After reporting online, a CHCC representative will be in contact for next steps should a person be eligible for treatment.

Quarantine completion certificates are also available by reporting your positive test result online at www.staysafecnmi.com/self-reporting. You will need to upload a photo of your test result or test result documentation. Employers may use this as documentation of their employee's positive test result. If employers or employees require additional documentation, they must seek documentation from their healthcare provider.

After five days, do a self-check on how you are feeling. If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are improving, you can end isolation and should wear a well-fitted mask around others for an additional five days. If your symptoms are not improving or you still have a fever, continue to stay home until 24 hours after your fever stops without using fever-reducing medication and your symptoms have improved. After you feel completely better, keep wearing a mask around other people at home and in public through Day 10.

Vaccination

CHCC and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force highly encourage unvaccinated individuals to get vaccinated and those eligible to get a booster shot against COVID-19 to help prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and death.

A second booster is available for adults ages 50 years and older and people ages 12 years and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised.

COVID-19 vaccinations are available by visiting the CHCC Immunization Clinic or calling (670) 236-8745.

Data from clinical trials show that vaccine effectiveness against COVID-19 infection wanes after the primary series, but protection remains high against severe disease and hospitalization. Get a booster shot when you are eligible to help prevent more serious symptoms and give COVID-19 to your friends or family.

Contact information

To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, call the Governor's COVID- 19 Task Force Infoline at (670) 488-0211, available every day, 8am – 8pm, or visit www.staysafecnmi.com.

The CHCC contact tracing team may be reached at (670) 287-1671, 287-1672, or 287-1683, available every day, 7:30am – 4:30pm; after hours, call (670) 286-1711 or 286-1706.

For mental health support and coping skills, call (670) 284-0843 or 284-0847, every day, 8:30am – 3:30pm.

The CNMI is reminded to watch out for misinformation and to follow updates directly from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC. ***(PR)***

CNMI

From Page 1

"Despite the challenges due to [super typhoons] Soudelor and Yutu followed by obstacles brought to our path by the COVID-19 pandemic, the CNMI rose to the challenge and they came through with flying colors," he said in his welcoming remarks.

As late as last year, it was up in air whether the Northern Marianas could even host the Games after postponing it from 2021 to 2022 due to COVID-19, he said.

"Some of us were not sure if we would ever meet for the 11th edition of the Pacific Mini Games. Some even doubted the ability of the CNMI to host us all," he said.

But under the leadership of the Mini Games Organizing Committee, led by chair Marco Peter and CEO Vicente "Ben" Babauta, the CNMI proved all skeptics wrong. "But here we are. My fate in the local people of the Pacific Islands has been vindicated. All critics have been proven wrong. I also want to single out Gov. Torres for he's been a tower of strength to our Games Organizing Committee. If it had not been for your support, we probably wouldn't be in this shape this evening. Please accept our sincerest thanks for your commitment to see this Games through," he added.

Lakhan also recognized two individuals who in 2014 made it possible to bring the Pacific Mini Games to the CNMI—then-Northern Marianas Sports Association president Michael White and then-lieutenant governor Jude U. Hofschneider.

"The stage is set for what is promising to be an excellent Games. I urge [athletes] to fully participate in this Games as true ambassadors of your respective countries, respecting our value of friendship, integrity, and fair play," he said.

Peter, who represented the CNMI in golf at the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa, initially doubted if he could actually spearhead the successful hosting of the Games.

"As an athlete I know the importance of hard work, practice, and perseverance. By applying those basic principles in organizing the Pacific Mini Games, coupled with the countless support of the governor, stakeholders, and the NMI business community, we stand here today at the opening ceremony of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games." he said.

And Peter is promising not only the successful delivery of the Games, but that the CNMI will host a Games everyone would remember.

"[We] didn't want to provide the bare minimum. We wanted to set the new bar for host nations to follow in the field of play, accommodations, transportation, and food and I'm proud to say we've done just that," he added.

Peter also commended the local business community for donating so selflessly for the Games to be held successfully. "The organizing committee was tasked with obtaining funds needed to host the Games. The committee has exceeded its targeted fundraising beyond our projections. This means more funding to put on this Games."

For Torres, the Northern Pacific Mini Games 2022 is a shining example of how the peoples of the Pacific and Oceania are truly one people. "Each of our presence and participation commemorates the strengths of our countries and the resilience of our people that enables us to come together stronger in good sportsmanship and respect with our differences and similarities."

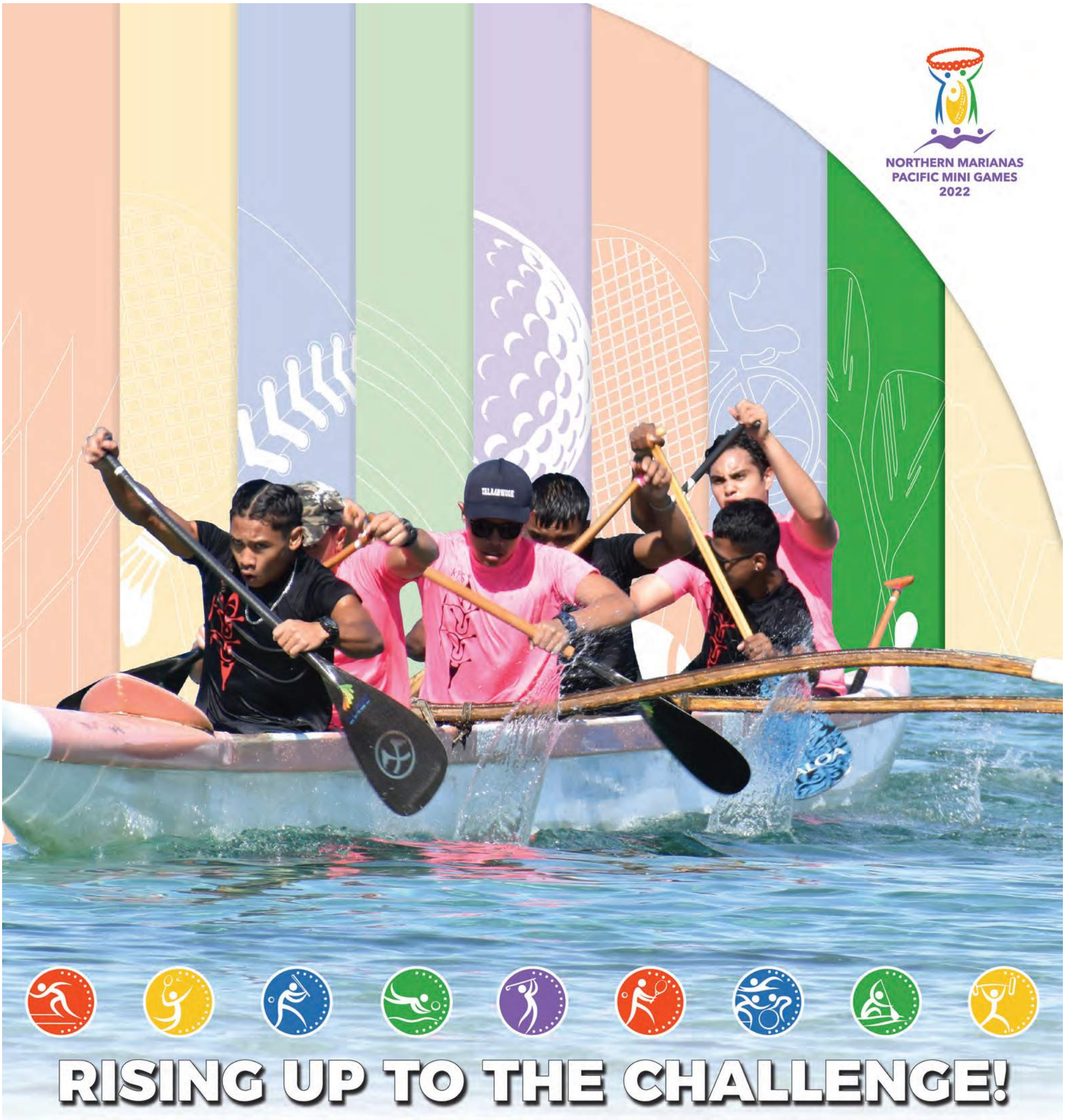
He added that the holding of the Games also proves that the region has beaten back the pandemic. "We have just survived a global pandemic and for many people this was the first time in a long time that they were able to compete regionally. For the CNMI, we used the time of isolation and quarantine to prepare for the Mini Games, to provide our athletes with the state-of-the-art equipment and facilities."

Torres also commended the athletes for their commitment to health and sports as their training for the Games required hard work and dedication.

"The CNMI is ready to provide you with all the opportunities to showcase your skill and abilities to represent your island and countries."

With over 3,000 spectators attending the opening ceremony in person and countless more watching the livestream, the opening ceremony highlights included the parade of participating countries, the torch relay coupled with the lighting of the cauldron, cultural dances, and the first ever drone show in NMI history.

"Never have I seen large groups from all over in Oceania coming together and uniting in the Games spirit," said Peter. "This was truly an auspicious moment for the NMI and the NMI people. We are proud to display all the great things about our home." ***(With PR)***



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NOTICE OF INTENT TO LEASE PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot 064 D 04 containing an area of approximately 7,138 square meters, more or less, situated in Navy Hill, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands and website www.dpl.gov.mp for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Saipan Palau Evangelical Church. The lists of officers for Saipan Palau Evangelical Church, are David Leskosek, as President, and Semesi Betevua as Vice President.

iii. The proposed lease is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by Mr. David Leskosek.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of operation of a Saipan-Palau Evangelical Church program and activities, Sunday School, and other church related activities.

The term of the Public Land Lease agreement is 25 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property in DPL's regulation.

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the PM Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Navy Hill, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before, June 30, 2022 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT I MAPROPONI NA ATKILON TÅNU´ PUPBLIKU

Gi sigun Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku mannånå'i guini nutisia put i intensiona para u atkila finitmi na tanu' pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Mariånas. Maseha håyi na pattida ni intirisao gi hålum heneråt pupbliku siña muna'hålum upiñon, imfotmasion, pat testimoniun kinontra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilon nu i tanu' pupbliku. Kumu mapribeni mås mo'na ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyipettanesin na imfotmasion manisisita para u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tanu' pupbliku madiskribi kumu Lot 064 D 04 ni konsisisti kåsi 7,138 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi gi Navy Hill, iya Saipan. I kopianpåttinmåpa i lugåt managuaha gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku yan website gi www.dpl.gov.mp para inspeksion.

ii. I "prospective lessee" i "Saipan Palau Evangelical Church." I listanufisiåt siha para i "Saipan Palau Evangelical Church," sa si David Leskosek, komu Presidenti, yan si Semesi Betevua komu Sigundu Presidenti.

iii. I maproponi na atkilon ha tattiyi i regulasion DPL yan manigosiu gi as Siñot David Leskosek.

iv. I "lessee" debi na u usa i lugåt solamienti para i hinagai prugråma yan aktibidåt nu "Saipan-Palau Evangelical Church" siha, Iskuelan Damenggu, yan otru manasosiåt na aktibidåt ekglesia siha.

I tema i kontråtan Atkilon Tanu' Pupbliku sa' bentisingku (25) åñus.

I maproponi na atkilon kada såkkan gi durånti i tema magiha gi putsientu i "appraised fair market value" gi halum i regulasion DPL.

v. I kopian i maproponi na kontrå tanatkilon siña machuli' gi Ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha, ni gaigi gi Sigundu (2nd) bibienda gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; Primet (1st) bibienda gi De'Ana Commercial Building, giya Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet (1st) bibienda gi PM Building, giya Tinian. Managuaha siempri kopia online gi www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. I Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku tåya ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para u ma'atkilamasuhetu na tanu' pupbliku giya Navy Hill, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritårian Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku debi na u akseptatinigi' upiñon, imfotmasion, testimoniun kinentra pat alternative proposals ginin i manintirisåo na pattida siha gi pat åntis di Hunio 30, 2022 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi giya Saipan, Luta pat Tinian.

ARONGORONGOL TOULAP REEL KKAPASAL PPWOMWOL ATKKILOONOOL

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap e attotoowow arongorong reel igha re mángemángil rebwe atkkilaay akkáåw faluweer toulap llól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw kka Efáng llól Marianas. Schóó kka re mwuschel isiisilong kkapas, data, views, ngáre angiingi reel pommwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap. Eyoor sángi Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, arongorong ikka e amwirimwiritiw ebwe akkatééwow.

i. Pommwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap e bwáálo bwe Lot 064 D 04 e bwe bwáá bwe 7,138 reel square meters, elapeló ngáre eghus, iye e lo Navy Hill, Seipél. Pappidil falúw yeel eyoor me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me bwalwóól website me www.dpl.gov.mp ngáre u mwuschel amwuri.

ii. Pommwol school atkkilóón nge Saipan Palau Evangelical Church. List-al officers ngáli Saipan Palau Evangelical Church, nge David Leskosek, bwe President, me Semesi Betevua bwe Vice President.

iii. Pommwol atkkilóón nge e angúúngú fengál me mwóghutughutúl DPL me e abwungubwung sángi Mr. David Leskosek.

iv. Schóól atkkilóón ebwe yááyá falúw ngá llimwó ghutughutúl Saipan-Palau Evangelical Church me progróómal me mwóghutughut, "Sunday School", me ákkáåw mwóghutughut ikka e bwal schuu long.

Pommwol abwungubwungúl Atkkilóónol Faluweer Toulap nge ruweigh me llimoow ráágh.

Pommwol atkkilóónol ghal ráágh nge e lo reel "percentage" sángi "appraised fair market value" reel falúwfengál me llól mwóghutughutúl DPL.

v. Pappidil pommwol abwungubwungúl Atkkilóón emmwel ubwe bweibwogh me reelBwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Seipél; 1st floor reel De'Ana Commercial Building, apilómwol Songsong, me Luuta; ngáre 1st floor reel PM Building, Tchiliyól. Ebwal yoor pappidil mille online me www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh pommw iye re siiweli ngáli atkkilóón iye e lo weiláng reel faluweer toulap me Navy Hill, Seipél.

vii. Sekkretóóriyal Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap emmwelil bweibwogh ischil mángemáng, views, angii ngáre pommw iye re siiweli sángi schóó kka re mwuschel wóól ngáre mmwalil Unnyo 30, 2022 me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me Seipél, Luuta, ngáre Tchiliyól.

For the first time, NMI flag is raised at National Museum of American History

For the first time, the CNMI flag was raised at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. during Flag Day last Tuesday, June 14.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said in his e-kilili newsletter over the weekend that the CNMI flag was raised along with those of Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Sablan said the insular area flags join those of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico displayed around the museum at the the National Mall.

It was Sablan who initiated the request for inclusion of the insular flags last year. Dr. Anthea M. Hartig, the museum's director, approved the request.

According to the delegate, Hartig stated during Tuesday's ceremony that this display has been incomplete for 60 years and now they are acting "to right that wrong."

Sablan said the inclusion of the Marianas in federal law and programs has been the principal theme of his tenure. He said the symbolic inclusion and recognition of the people of the Marianas as part of the American family is also important.

He said he pushed for legislation 10 years ago to require that the Marianas flag be displayed in U.S. military bases wherever the flags of the 50 states are flown.

"Now our flag is flying at the Smithsonian's Museum of American History for the millions of Americans who visit Washington each year to see," Sablan said.

Aside from Sablan and Hartig, those who attended the symbolic flag raising around the perimeter of the museum, were Guam Lt. Gov. Joshua Tenorio, Guam Delegate Michael San Nicolas, American Samoa Attorney General Fainuulelei Utu, U.S. Virgin Islands Delegate Stacey Plaskett, and CNMI Office of Planning and Development director Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

HANMI DONATES TO 500 SAILS HANMI

Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands vice chair Dennis Seo, right, and board member Robert Coates, left, present a $2,500 donation to 500 Sails director of Community Projects Andrew Roberto on June 15, 2022, at the 500 Sails boatyard in Lower Base, Saipan. HANMI is a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the Marianas and made the donation in support of 500 Sails' work to revive, promote, and preserve the maritime cultural traditions of the Marianas through community engagement in canoe culture values and activities. A portion of the donation will be used to providing sailing experiences for visitors, including Pacific Mini Game delegates.

ANTONIO SN. BORJA, Chairman · JAMES M. MENDIOLA, Vice Chairman · HENRY H. SAN NICOLAS, Member · DONALD M. HOFSCHNEIDER, Acting Executive Director

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

No.: 2022-01

It is the policy of the Tinan Casino Gaming Control Commission that the personnel system shall be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution, and the Federal Civil Rights Laws regardless of age, race, sexual orientation, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

Position Title: Executive Director
Opening Date: 06/13/2022 **Closing Date:** 06/27/2022
Salary: $55,000.00 - $65,000.00 per annum **Pay Level:** Ungraded
Location: Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission, P.O. Box 520143 Tinian, MP 96952 USA

Duties: Serves as Chief Administrative Officer for the staff of the Gaming Commission. Responsible for maintaining efficient operations, for the Gaming Commission. Ensures that the Gaming Commission fulfill its mandate, pursuant to the Revised Tinian Casino Gaming Control Act of 1989. Responsible for recruiting staff members for the TCGCC. Develops administrative procedures, and applicable internal controls. Initiates investigations of applicants for casino licenses, and other applicable licenses. Makes recommendations to the members of the Commission based on the findings of due diligence reports. Prepares annual performance report for the Gaming Commission. Reviews and finalizes the financial reports of the Gaming Commission's activities. Performs other duties as specified in the Revised Tinian Casino Gaming Control Act of 1989, and pursuant to the advice of the Commission.

Qualifications: A combination equivalent to a degree from an accredited college or university, in public administration, business administration or related fields, and at least five (5) years of substantial experience in administrative office management and staff supervision, either the public or with the private sector. Experience in personnel management, fiscal management, procurement and supply, contract negotiation, and other managerial skills, will also be taken into consideration. Applicant must pass the required pre-employment drug testing and other applicable standards, pursuant to the TCGCC Personnel Rules and Regulations.

Special Conditions of Employment: Employment will be undertaken pursuant to TCGCC Personnel Regulations, including but not limited to, Sub-Section 170-30.5-235 which states that "There are special conditions and standards of employment which are considered implicit to successful performance in certain positions". These include, the availability to perform work during non-standard working hours, the requirement to officially travel, as deemed necessary by the TCGCC, and other related duties.

INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS MAY OBTAIN AN APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT, AT THE TCGCC'S MAIN OFFICE IN TINIAN. THE COMPLETED APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT, AND ALL REVELANT DOCUMENTS WHICH INCLUDES, BUT NOT LIMITED TO A RESUME, SCHOOL DIPLOMA AND/OR OTHER RELEVANT EDUCATION TRANSCRIPTS, AND A POLICE CLEARANCE, MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE PERSONNEL SPECIALIST AT THE TCGCC'S MAIN OFFICE DURING THE SPECIFIED OPENING AND CLOSING DATE OF THE POSITION.

NOTE: TCGCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO EXTEND OR CANCEL THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, WITH OR WITHOUT CAUSE.

23rd Taste of the Marianas welcomes Pacific visitors

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

This year's Taste of the Marianas coincides with the first ever Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 and, along with welcoming local community members, the annual event also opened its arms to athletes, officials, and families from the 20 visiting countries and territories.

The ribbon-cutting to officially open the 23rd Taste of the Marianas last Saturday afternoon was joined by a Papua New Guinea and Tahiti delegate, along with Rep. Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, acting CNMI governor Jude Hofschneider, Marianas Visitors Authority chair Viola Alepuyo, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, Rep. Joseph Flores (Ind-Saipan), and MVA executive director Priscilla M. Iakopo.

This year's event is bigger, with a total of 29 food vendors, four beverage vendors, arts and crafts, and nonprofit groups.

Alepuyo gave a warm welcome to all off-island visitors, "especially to our Pacific Island brothers and sisters who are here for the Pacific Mini Games."

She described the Taste as an event created to give CNMI visitors an authentic and memorable island experience. "Taste brings together the best of both worlds, tourism and our community. We are so grateful to be able to host Taste again this year, as the world continues to recover from COVID."

In his remarks, Hofschneider finds it amazing that, after two years when the CNMI was faced with the biggest challenges it has ever had in the last decade—Super Typhoon Yutu and COVID-19—"there's two celebrations happening here on Saipan [right now]…and none of this would be possible without that togetherness and our partnership with all the agencies, the sponsors and the people so that we can have these events."

The ribbon-cutting to officially open the 23rd Taste of the Marianas last Saturday afternoon was done by, from left, Rep. Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, a Papua New Guinea and a Tahiti delegate, acting governor Jude Hofschneider, Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Viola Alepuyo, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, Rep. Joseph Flores, and MVA executive director Priscilla M. Iakopo. LEIGH GASES

Iakopo said the CNMI has already come a long way as a destination. "Last year, we had only 11 international flights. And this year…we have had over 16 international flights. …We are on our way to recovery. …We are pleased to welcome our visitors from around the world, most especially those who came for the Pacific Mini Games."

Along with the food, drinks, and arts and crafts from the different vendors, there are 30 groups lined up to perform at the festival.

Additionally, with the "Kadun Pika Cooking Contest" on the first night and the "Eskabeche Cooking Contest" last night, there will be a food demonstration at 6pm and a "Sukiyaki Eating Contest" at 8pm on Saturday, June 25.

The Marianas Jr. Chef Challenge will be held on the last day, Sunday, June 26.

There is also a contest for the best decorated booth.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit bid proposals and their qualifications for the BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, CPA-RA-003-17, on the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: ***"Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport Drainage Improvement Project, CPA-RA-003-17"*** and submitted no later than **2:00 P.M. (CHST), FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing, as well as wear a face mask at all times while at the airport.

The Project, in general, consists of sewer pipe replacement at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport Terminal including all associated work, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Contract Documents including plans, specifications and the bid schedule, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **SEVENTY-FIVE U.S. DOLLARS ($75.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bidders should notify CPA immediately if there are issues retrieving the files on the DVD and are to verify all information using the specification table of contents and the index of drawings in the plans.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Maintenance/Custodian Supervisor's office at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, at **10:00 A.M. (CHST), FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 2022**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Attendance is not mandatory. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. For site visits after the pre-bid conference, bidders are to coordinate with Ms. Sharlene Manglona, CPA's Rota Ports Manager at email address sharlene.manglona@cnmiports.com or telephone number (670) 532-9497, during regular working hours.

Questions should be submitted in writing to the CPA Executive Director's Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date.

Bidders shall use the bid schedule form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all supplemental information required in the specifications.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **Two Hundred Seventy (270) calendar days**. Liquidated damages in the amount of **Five-Hundred U.S. Dollars ($500.00)** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or mis-enter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-28 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: May 11, 2022

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A.
Tel. Nos. (670) 664-4282 Fax (670) 235-5131

WATER QUALITY REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

Your 2021 CUC Water Quality Report is now available on-line! This year, we have a separate report for each island: Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. These reports contain important information about the source and quality of your drinking water.

Please open the following web sites to view what contaminants were detected in your water during 2021 and to learn more about your drinking water.

For Saipan, go to https://www.cucgov.org/spn2021
For Tinian, go to https://www.cucgov.org/tin2021
For Rota, go to https://www.cucgov.org/rota2021

If you need the report translated, wish to speak with someone about the report, or would like a paper copy delivered or emailed to you, please call CUC at (670) 664-4282.

RA AYOORA REPOODIL AMMWELIL SCHAAL

Repoodil yóómw 2021 CUC Ammwelil Schaal aa yoor online! Ráágh yeel, ai ayoora repoodngáli falúw kka: Seipél, Tchiliyól, me Luuta. E lo llól repood kkal arongorong ikka e impotanti reel milikka e toowow me ammwelil schaal iye ów ghal úlúmi.

Emmwel ubwe suughi website ikka e amwirimwiritiw ubwe amwuri meta kka e nngaw iye e lo llól yóómw schaal llól ráághil 2021 me ubwe metaff reel schaal iye ughal úlúmi.

Ngáli Seipél, mweteló reel https://www.cucgov.org/spn2021
Ngáli Tchiliyól, mweteló reel https://www.cucgov.org/tin2021
Ngáli Luuta, mweteló reel https://www.cucgov.org/rota2021

Ngáre u mwuschel rebwe seleti repood yeel, ngáre u tipáli ubwe kkapas ngáli escháy reel repood yeel, ngáre u mwuschel pappid yeel ngáre rebwe email-li ló ngálugh, faingi ló CUC me (670) 664-4282.

RIPOT KUÅLIDÅT HÅNOM ESTA MANAGUAHA

Iyon-mu 2021 na Ripot nu i Kuålidåt Hånom i CUC managuahayi på´gu giya on-line! På´gu na såkkan, in na´guahayi siparåo na ripot para kada´ isla: Saipan, Tinian, yan Luta. Esti na ripot siha masaguaniniyi impottånti na infotmasion put i tutuhonña yan kuålidåt put i Hånom ni un gigimin.

Put fabot baba i tinattiyi na web sites para un atan håfa siha mankutchinu ni masodda´ gi hålum i hånom-mu gi durântin 2021 na såkkan para un ke´tungu´ mås put i hånom ni un gigimin.

Para Saipan, hånao para https://www.cucgov.org/spn2021
Para Tinian, hånao para https://www.cucgov.org/tin2021
Para Luta, hånao para https://www.cucgov.org/rota2021

Kumu un nisisita i ripot para u matranslåda, ya malagu´ håo kumuentusi håyi put i ripot pat malagu´ håo kopian påppit u ma´entrega pat ma-email guatu para hågu, put fabot hågan i CUC gi (670) 664-4282.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Re-aiming: There's another route for gun safety progress

File it under depressingly predictable: Wednesday and Thursday, Senate Republicans and Democrats were running into political friction as they tried to turn the modest set of "breakthrough" gun safety proposals into actual legislation. Though we are decidedly underwhelmed by the ideas—including incentives to states to enact "red flag" laws; extra scrutiny of young gun buyers; and more spending on mental health care and school safety—it would be an epic failure if, in the wake of two galvanizing mass shootings by 18-year-olds and amid record gun violence, nothing gets done, again.

Executives around the country who want to change America's rancid culture of violence have another tool at their disposal, beyond simply waiting for Congress and state legislatures to pass better laws. They can use their leverage as firearm buyers to pressure gun companies to behave more responsibly.

As Rev. David Brawley, Rabbi Joel Mosbacher and Mike Gecan of Metro Industrial Areas Foundation wrote in these pages last month, cities, states and the federal government, are gun makers' biggest customers—and, if they have the guts and gumption, can place strict conditions on those purchases and possibly drag the companies toward more responsible behavior.

For one, they can demand that gun makers who do business with them stop doing business with the small fraction of dealers that supply the lion's share of weapons that show up at crime scenes.

Two, they can require manufacturers to move much faster in embracing technology that would disable stolen guns and prevent accidental deaths of children who grab adult guns.

Three, as Bloomberg's Timothy O'Brien recommends, they could present a stark choice to gun makers: stop selling military-grade firearms like the AR-15 to the general public—or lose the business of those who buy them for actual military and paramilitary use.

Gun makers might respond to such pressure with a giant scoff and a series of lawsuits. But with 45,000 gun deaths annually, there are worse things than trying and failing to change the equation.

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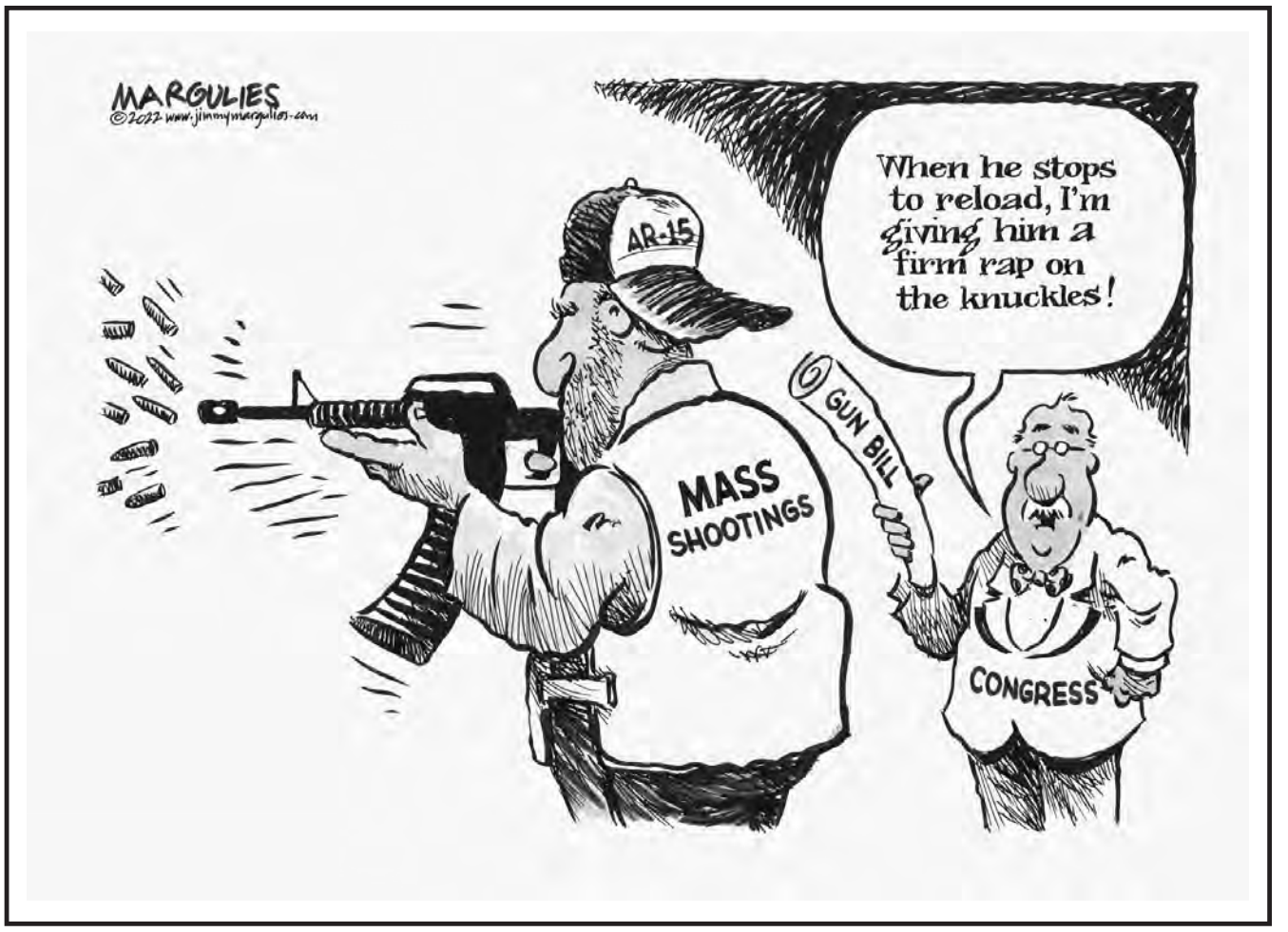


Our children's lives should be more important than our gun culture

By DR. JASON TERK
American Academy of Pediatrics

Dr. Jason Terk is a pediatrician in Keller, Texas, and the chair of the Texas Public Health Coalition.

Once again, we find ourselves here. The timeline is all too familiar: a horrific shooting, shock, thoughts and prayers, distractions from the real issues, distortions about what gun reform truly is, then bids to get something passed by Congress, and fears of shootings happening again.

We have had many chances to change. Still, children are dying.

Twenty-three years ago, 12 students and a teacher were shot and killed at Columbine High School in Colorado. Ten years ago, 20 children and six school staff members were slaughtered in Newtown, Connecticut. And just three weeks ago, 19 children and two teachers were gunned down in an Uvalde, Texas, elementary school.

As a pediatrician and a father, I find that I simply cannot process that children no different from my own and the ones I treat as a pediatrician have come to such violent and horrific ends in places that should have been completely safe for them.

I cannot think what it must have been like for a fellow parent to perform the task of telling their surviving child that their sibling has died or to submit to a DNA swab because the remains of their child are so grotesquely destroyed by a close-range AR-15 round that other forms of identification are inadequate.

And so, I have retreated to a safer, more analytic place of repose. I go there to strip painful things of their emotions so that I can continue to do what people expect of me as a man, father, doctor and child advocate.

No one can deny that we in America reside in a culture that highly values guns and the near limitless ability to possess them. It is a value that is written into the DNA of our nation as the Second Amendment to our Constitution. And, through the years, the "right to bear arms" has been interpreted and exercised more absolutely than almost any other founding principle of our country.

Virtually any real or imagined check on the unconditional freedom to possess guns has been viewed as the most perilous slippery slope threatening what we have elevated as one our most cherished liberties.

So, whatever I think about guns must be reconciled with this reality.

But there is a reckoning that I think has not yet been properly articulated. There are consequences for the choices we, as citizens, make. The freedom to possess guns and ammunition of almost any destructive capacity with little infringement creates our current reality that must include tragedies of this sort from time to time. And when we resolve to defend this liberty, we must accept these consequences as well.

If we are to be truly honest with ourselves and true to this dearly held principle, we must say that we accept that some of our children will necessarily die to adhere to this principle.

It cannot be any other way. We will always have people in our society who are mentally ill, anti-social or simply evil, and they will have access to guns because that is the culture we have created. It is intellectually dishonest to think otherwise. And, it is preposterous to say that we have a mental health system that will take care of these people well enough to protect our innocents or that we have the will to create one with guns as accessible as they are.

In the 10 years since the Sandy Hook massacre in Connecticut, many of our political leaders have conjured distractions from the real issues that affect our children. Many have chosen to focus their efforts on a rebranding of critical race theory and imagined threats from the care of transgender children as perennial problems with access to medical care including mental health care languish.

Our kids have suffered immeasurably from the pandemic and natural disasters while some of our political leaders gin up passions for electoral gain directed against those professionals who are there to support them. Librarians, teachers and school counselors stand accused of indoctrinating children and are threatened with criminal prosecution and lawsuits while our school libraries are scrubbed for potentially "obscene" books.

These last few years are very likely the prologue for what will follow in the next 10 years as we reflect on future tragedies.

So let us continue to say what we believe, only make sure that we say all of it. We will defend absolute gun freedom and accept that some of our children will die. And, when they do, we will be sorry and feel the pain once more, but also know that it was a planned loss.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Shangri-La conference and its importance to our overall region of the world

RICK'S COLUMN
By RICK ARRIOLA PEREZ
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rick Arriola Perez is a U.S. military veteran who has worked for the U.S. Department of Defense, the Bank of Hawaii, and the government of Guam. He holds several degrees including ones from University of California Los Angeles and the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I. Rick is passionate about national security and foreign affairs in the Pacific Asia region and runs a blogsite called Guam Affairs at guamaffairs.substack.com. For more information, contact Perez at rickp7839@gmail.com.

About 30 nations met in Singapore to discuss international security, geopolitics, and worldwide developments earlier this month. The prime ministers of Japan, Singapore, and several top military officials worldwide convened at the beautiful Shangri-La resort hotel in Singapore. Face to face meetings with international peers took place at a variety of levels, with some progress and some tensions surfacing.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin delivered prepared remarks, as well as Chinese Defense Minister General Wei Fenghe. The U.S. and China remain at an impasse on how each nation views Taiwan. The Chinese view American assistance to Taiwan as unacceptable and have expressed very clearly that the People's Republic of China will not hesitate to invade Taiwan should the island formally seek political independence. The United States views Taiwan as a key informal Asian partner and, while President Biden and the American administration maintain a formal One-China policy, it is also true that our nation continues to support Taiwan through arms sales, a robust economic relationship driven by microchips, and tourism.

The United States and Taiwan also are at odds over ongoing developments associated with the South China Sea, the South Pacific, and aggregate bilateral trade. American allies throughout Asia have formally expressed the desire to support the American position over Taiwan. Japan, as just one example, supports the U.S. position on Taiwan in part through its decision to increase the acquisition of unmanned military aircraft systems and increased operational tempos of bilateral training.

The presence of both Australian and American leaders at Shangri-La underscored the continuing importance of the U.S.-Australian bilateral agreement in place, to share nuclear-powered technology for submarine construction. The Australians continue to reassess how their military forces are postured and configured, especially as China continues to become more powerful militarily. If China obtains formal long-term access to the Solomon Islands, Australia's eastern seaboard would become more vulnerable to Chinese espionage, surveillance, and possible attack.

Australia remains committed to growing closer ties to the U.S. through more American troop training exercises throughout the country while maintaining strong economic ties to China. The Australians remain concerned that a Chinese takeover of Taiwan would allow China to project greater military power north to Japan, south to the Philippines, and deep into the northern Western Pacific. Australia is committed to developing long-range missile systems and anti-access/area denial capabilities moving forward. Australia is also committed to growing its overall trade relationship with China.

Shangri-La provided the venue for both South Korea and the United States to recommit to a series of meetings this fall to discuss emerging technologies with vast military implications such as quantum computing and networking, space development, artificial intelligence, semiconductors, civilian nuclear power and batteries.

Shangri-La also enabled the Republic of the Philippines to restate its desire to continue to grow its trade relationship with China while also growing its military-to-military relationship. The Philippines is also engaged with the United States on updating a mutual defense cooperation agreement. The Philippines is in the position to reap potentially huge benefits from working with both China and the U.S. because of its geographical, economic, political, and historical ties to mainland China. The Philippines, however, is the country that could see massive damage should a hot war between China and the U.S. take place along its western near-shore region, which borders the eastern portion of the South China Sea.

How knowledge of geopolitics and the American-Sino arms race will help our Chamorro people

Understanding our overall region of the world, the interplay of politics, militarism, and economics will, over time, help our Chamorro Pacific Islander civilization put into further context how power politics works throughout our part of Planet Earth.

What China does and does not do impacts decisions made by the American national security community. The same holds true when reversed. China continues to fortify the South China Sea through the hardening of various islands taken over by the PRC military. China is on its way to operationalizing its third aircraft carrier that will have new technological features such as electromagnetic catapulting of fixed wing airplanes. China continues its campaign of resolve to dissuade Taiwan from seriously considering political extraction from the PRC.

On the American side, the further militarization of the Marianas and Micronesia continues unabated. The United States plans to further harden Guam as it seeks to complete the steps needed to place and operationalize a shore-based missile defense system. Missile tests continue in Palau and the Marshalls. Communications infrastructure, sensor and radar infrastructure continues to improve, but for our Chamorro people, we remain without a comprehensive nuclear bomb shelter to run to should Guam or the Northern Mariana Islands be attacked. Little evidence is available that supports the notion of any kind of reversal from the ongoing massive militarization of the Marianas and Micronesia.

Sweden's faux neutrality couldn't survive Putin's Ukraine war

By HAL BRANDS
Bloomberg Opinion

Hal Brands is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist. The Henry Kissinger Distinguished Professor at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, he is co-author, most recently, of* Danger Zone: The Coming Conflict with China.

Is there life after empire? I pondered the question last week at the Engelsberg Seminar, a gathering of academics, journalists and policymakers held in a disused ironworks two hours by car from Stockholm. Sweden once controlled vast stretches of northern Europe. It then contented itself, after a series of military defeats, to a more modest existence as a small neutral power with a healthy welfare state.

Judging from the quantity and quality of champagne consumed at Engelsberg, life after empire can be pretty sweet — so long as some other superpower can keep your world from falling apart. For generations, a nominally neutral Sweden could thrive only by aligning itself quietly, if unmistakably, with the American empire. Today, the country's push for North Atlantic Treaty Organization membership is making that alignment explicit.

Sweden was once a mighty empire. During the 17th century, it was the leading Protestant power in continental Europe. After the Thirty Years' War, it controlled much of Scandinavia and the Baltic region, as well as territories wrested from the Holy Roman Empire.

Decline set in only decades later. A disastrous defeat at the hands of Peter the Great—whom the Russian ruler President Vladimir Putin now emulates—at the Battle of Poltava in 1709 set off a long imperial retrenchment that eventually left Sweden as it is today. During the 20th century, Sweden was often seen — and saw itself — as the quintessential neutral state, one that sat out the world wars and the Cold War so that it could tend its own garden instead.

It has been a pretty nice existence. Sweden boasts the world's 20th-highest per capita income. It pairs a robust capitalist economy with generous social welfare provisions. The country is famous for high levels of social capital and domestic cohesion, which enabled a remarkably light-touch approach to managing the COVID-19 pandemic, with day-to-day life continuing largely as usual. Corruption and crime are low, even though the latter is rising.

Sweden has done great, despite no longer being a great power. Which is perhaps why most Swedes seem not to miss the old empire much.

Yet Sweden's story isn't quite as simple as it might seem. Neutrality could be very profitable: The country infuriated the British during World War II by selling critical commodities to both sides. Yet that neutrality could also be precarious, as when the government felt compelled to let German troops cross Swedish territory on their way to attacking the Soviet Union.

And that stance could hardly have saved Sweden had Nazi Germany won the war and established its mastery over Europe. Adolf Hitler, who had little regard for the rights of smaller states, would not have left that country alone for a minute longer than he found convenient. The Swedish balancing act was only possible so long as the most aggressive, brutal states did not gain a preponderance of power.

Sweden tacitly recognized as much during the Cold War, when it was neutral in theory but never in practice. The country developed deep intelligence cooperation with the U.S. and NATO; it allowed Western forces to quietly use Swedish facilities and developed a high degree of interoperability with them. Sweden even reportedly enjoyed loose security guarantees — an "invisible alliance," as one journalist later put it — from Washington and NATO.

A vulnerable Sweden would have faced existential danger in a world where the Soviet Union was ascendant, which is why Stockholm reconciled itself, if only informally, to American hegemony.

Today, Sweden is abandoning the last vestiges of neutrality in applying (along with Finland) to join NATO. But as officials in Stockholm told me, the reason Sweden can so easily be fast-tracked for membership — assuming a diplomatic dispute with Turkey is resolved — is that it has been such a close cousin of the alliance for years. The move into NATO may be a bold leap away from Sweden's self-image as a neutral power, but it is a small step in view of the longer-running realities of cooperation with the alliance.

Sweden brings real military heft, from its high-quality air combat and undersea warfare capabilities to its vital strategic geography in the Baltic. And the country has good, specific reasons to take this step. The Defense Ministry is worried about Russian designs on strategically situated Gotland Island, as well as ongoing Russian encroachments in Swedish waters, airspace and cyberspace.

These concerns, of course, have been amplified by the invasion of Ukraine, showing that a country lacking formal security guarantees is guaranteed nothing — and that the stability of the international system that allowed Sweden to thrive is no longer assured.

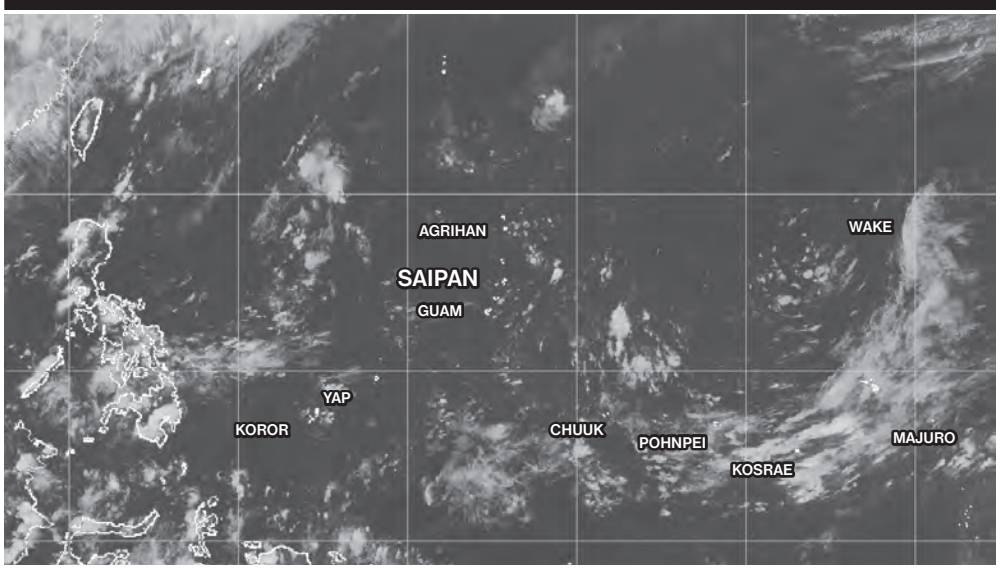
Sweden's NATO bid thus represents an open recognition of something its leaders have long understood: Small and medium countries can only succeed in a world where the balance of power is held by those who would protect their freedom rather than those who would destroy it. The Swedish empire is long gone. Fortunately for Sweden, the American empire isn't.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Scattered showers.	Scattered showers. Isolated thunderstorms Tuesday night.	Scattered showers. Isolated thunderstorms Tuesday night.	Chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
86° 77°	86° 77°	87° 78°	86° 77°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 4:32 PM, SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Moderate trade winds with occasionally strong gusts prevail in the Marianas, as a broad surface trough brings scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms tonight. After, multiple disturbances will make their way across the region, bringing on-and-off showers throughout the rest of the week. Combined seas between 3 and 5 feet are expected until Thursday, followed by an an additional foot or two thereafter.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	81° / 75°
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	88° /79°
Pohnpei	Showers	83° / 77°
Kosrae	Cloudy	82° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Tuesday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Wednesday	5:48 AM	6:49 PM
Thursday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:37 AM	5:02 PM
Tuesday	-	5:16 AM	5:49 PM
Wednesday	-	5:54 AM	6:36 PM
Thursday	-	6:34 AM	7:24 PM
Friday	-	7:15 AM	8:13 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	57° / 47°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	92° / 71°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Showers	77° / 73°
London	Partly Cloudy	67° / 52°
Los Angeles	Sunny	87° / 61°
Manila	Thunderstorms	92° / 79°
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	62° / 49°
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
New York	Partly Cloudy	81° / 64°
Osaka	Cloudy	85° / 74°
Paris	Showers	75° / 60°
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	80° / 72°
Rome	Sunny	91° / 66°
Salem	Sunny	90° / 64°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	69° / 51°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	89° / 68°
Tokyo	Cloudy	84° / 73°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	79° / 65°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:17 AM	High Tide	2.13
7:12 AM	Low Tide	1.27
11:38 AM	High Tide	1.78
6:49 PM	Low Tide	0.21

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6
RS112	3:45PM	7:30PM	3, 6
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	2:00PM	5:20PM	7
7C3451	3:00PM	6:20PM	3
BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

A184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
RS111	8:45AM	2:05PM	3, 6
7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 6, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
TW9307	9:15AM	2:30PM	3

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	8:00AM	1:00PM	7
BX621	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7
7C3452	9:00AM	2:00PM	3

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

$1K bail set for habitual vandalizer

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a $1,000 cash bail on a man who allegedly admitted to vandalizing multiple properties on numerous occasions.

During a bail hearing last week, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo imposed a $1,000 cash on Byron Kyle A. Deleon Guerrero for one count of vandalism before remanding him back to Department of Corrections custody.

Deleon Guerrero was arrested last Wednesday after he allegedly admitted to vandalizing on separate occasions the Divine Mercy Chapel in Chalan Kanoa, the St. Jude Parish Church, and his grandmother's house.

The judge ordered the defendant to return to court on June 23, for a preliminary hearing, and again on June 27, for his arraignment.

According to the complaint filed against Deleon Guerrero, DPS units were dispatched to a residence along Eskabeche Avenue in Koblerville last Wednesday, June 15, at around 5:20am to respond to a vandalism report.

At about 11:25am, that same day, police were heading east on As Perdido Road when they noticed Deleon Guerrero walking on the westbound shoulder of the road, heading east. He was then invited to the DPS office in Susupe, to which he obliged.

There, the defendant allegedly admitted to one of the detectives he knew personally that he was the one who vandalized the black-framed, front sliding window of his grandmother's house along Eskabeche Avenue in Koblerville.

The defendant also allegedly admitted to being the one who vandalized the front glass door of the Divine Mercy Chapel in Chalan Kanoa on Sunday, June 5, at about 4:01am.

At about 12:42pm that same day, Deleon Guerrero was arrested for vandalism, brough to Kanoa Resort for COVID-19 clearance, and then to the Department of Corrections, where he was booked and detained.

Aside from the two specific vandalisms that he allegedly admitted to, police said Deleon Guerrero later admitted to vandalizing the windows of the St. Jude Church in Koblerville numerous times this year alone. He also allegedly admitted to vandalizing his brother's vehicle at his grandmother's residence along Eskabeche Avenue.

It was learned that Deleon Guerrero has pending criminal cases for a total of seven vandalism incidents and tampering with a vehicle.

BOH closed today in observance of Juneteenth

HONOLULU, Hawaii—In June 2021, President Joe Biden signed legislation making Juneteenth National Independence Day a federal holiday. In accordance with federal holidays that fall on Sundays, Bank of Hawai'i branches and offices in the state of Hawaii, Guam, and Saipan will be closed today, June 20, 2022.

Bank of Hawai'i's customer service center will operate under normal business hours, from 6am to 9pm, today, June 20, to serve customers. Customers may also use BOH's ATMs, Bankoh By Phone (automated phone service), online and mobile banking, which are always available. Bank of Hawai'i will re-open tomorrow, June 21. For a list of all BOH holidays, visit https://www.boh.com/locations/branch-holidays. ***(PR)***

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AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-003-19

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
GENERAL AIRPORT TYPHOON YUTU FENCE REPAIRS AND REPLACEMENTS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting proposals for the procurement, furnishing and installation of chain link fencing and accessories (commercial and industrial grades), for the installation and general Typhoon Yutu repair/replacement work of its chain-link fences per this Scope of Work and associated Contract Documents, located at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Project shall be in compliance with all current federal, state and local government agencies' rules and regulations. This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 40-50-225.

The CPA Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an invitation for bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because CPA wishes to acquire services and products that cannot be evaluated by cost alone, or that factors other than price, such as technical expertise and/or the quality of materials, should be considered in determining the successful contractor.

Proposals shall be submitted no later than **5:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, JULY 8, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2ND floor of the Arriver Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. All proposals shall become property of CPA.

Contractors are requested to submit one original and four (4) copies of their proposals, sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"Proposal for General Airport Typhoon Yutu Fence Repairs and Replacements, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, CPA-SA-003-19".**

The Scope of Work (SOW) may be picked up at the CPA Accounting Office upon payment of **$50.00** per package. Project approach and cost must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeds what is required by the SOW, may be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package. Criteria for scoring proposals and proposal submission requirements are detailed in the Proposal Requirement section of the SOW.

Questions should be submitted to the CPA Executive Director, Christopher S. Tenorio, in writing, or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the proposal submission date. Contractors are welcome to inspect the facilities that are not within any secured locations; however, site visits for the Air Traffic Control Tower and ARFF Training Facility should be coordinated with Ms. Prater at telephone number 670-237-6500 or via the email address written above. Responses to all questions or requests for information will be provided to all proposers who picked up a proposal package.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Upon award, contractor shall execute performance and payment bonds for 100% of the contract amount from a CPA approved surety prior to commencement of work.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals. Therefore, proposers and their subcontractors must hold their proposal prices in effect for up to 180 calendar days.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d–4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: June 15, 2022

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP22-OPD-42200105
SUBMISSION DATE: July 06, 2022 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"WORK PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND SITE ASSESSMENTS - GARAPAN BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE HORIGUCHI BLDG., GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE RECOMMENDED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MAY BE MADE IN ANY MODE OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO **Ms. Erin Derrington**, VIA E-MAIL AT erin.derrington@opd.gov.mp **NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF BUSINESS DAY, JUNE 24, 2022** ALL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ A. KODEP OGUMORO-ULUDONG
DIRECTOR, OPD

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP22-OPD-42200106
SUBMISSION DATE: July 06, 2022 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"BROADBAND NETWORK ENGINEERING CONSULTING SERVICES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE HORIGUCHI BLDG., GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE RECOMMENDED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MAY BE MADE IN ANY MODE OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO **MR. PETER DESSLAR, VIA E-MAIL AT peter.dresslar@opd.gov.mp NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF BUSINESS DAY, JUNE 24, 2022** ALL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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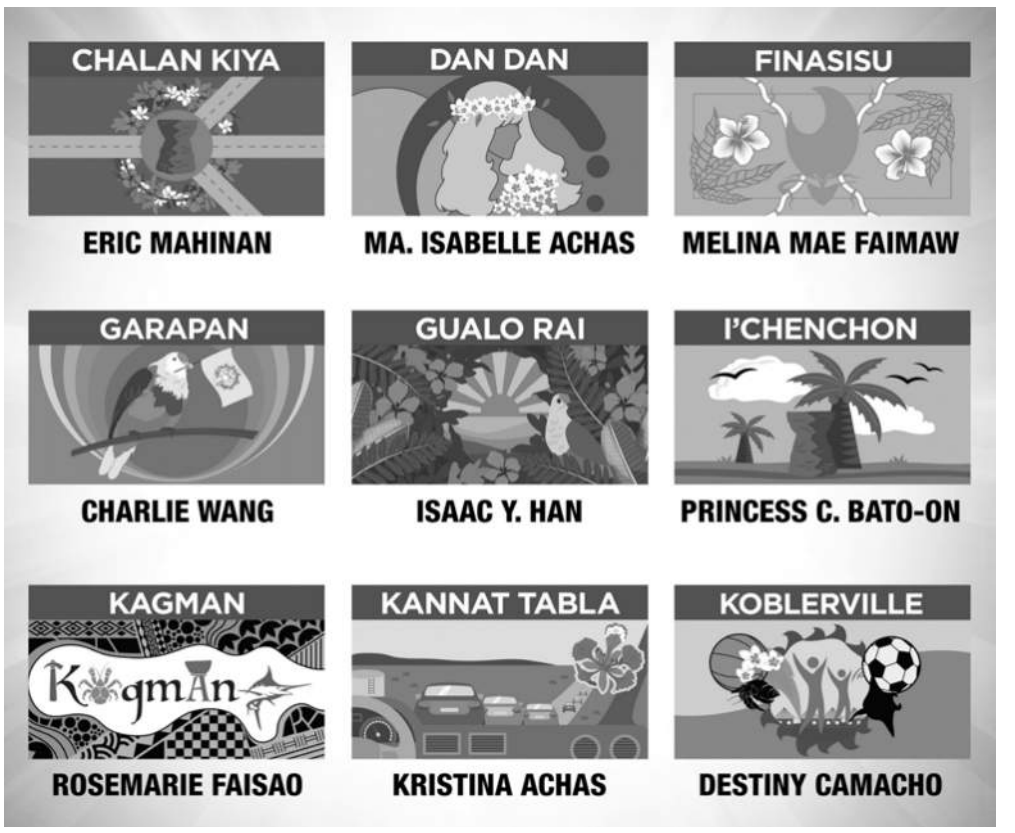
/S/ A. KODEP OGUMORO-ULUDONG
DIRECTOR, OPD

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

GCEA unveils 35 MVP Marianas village flags



Residents of the Marianas have another reason to celebrate at the Taste of the Marianas Festival this month. The Governor's Council of Economic Advisers has unveiled the new Marianas Village Flags at the opening of the Taste of the Marianas festival at the Garapan Fishing Base last Saturday, June 18, 2022. The village flags are installed along the Beach Road side of the festival, and the community is invited to attend this free event.

The Marianas Village Flags are the products of a Marianas Village Pride art contest hosted by the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers in partnership with the CNMI Public School System and the Saipan, Tinian, and Rota mayors' offices. The islands' villages were identified by their respective mayors and middle and high school students throughout the Marianas were invited to submit artwork and a short essay describing the essence of their villages. More than 800 entries were received, and 35 student works of art were selected to inspire the final flag designs.

"The Marianas Village Flags are the embodiment of village and hometown pride," said Jerry Tan, co-chairman of GCEA. "The council realized that there was a need for village flags to showcase what makes each village so special. Students of the Marianas accepted the challenge and thoughtfully designed flags that captured the best of home and what makes their villages unique. Join us in congratulating the 35 student artists, and let us all celebrate our village pride."

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada said, "We at the Public School System continue to explore and promote various opportunities for our students to grow and learn not only within the classroom but outside of it too. With the support from our State Board of Education, student activities and engagement has taken the front seat in our goal to ensure that our PSS students are college and career ready."

» Community invited to view 35 village flags for Rota, Tinian, and Saipan inspired by students of the Marianas on display during Taste of the Marianas festival

GCEA congratulates all MVP Village Flag Art Contest winners from Rota, Tinian, and Saipan:

ROTA VILLAGES

- I CHENCHON - PRINCESS C. BATO-ON
- SINAPALO - SAYEMA A. SIDUR
- SONGSONG - MIKAYLA P. MASGA

TINIAN VILLAGES

- CAROLINA HEIGHTS - PEVIKA DELA CRUZ
- MARPO VALLEY - MIYAKO SAN NICOLAS
- SAN JOSE - LLOYD RIVERA

SAIPAN VILLAGES

- AS LITO - TAYLOR JOHN HALLY
- AS MATUIS - RANDY RABAGO
- AS PERDIDO - SARIM OMAR
- AS TEO - ARSYNL TAGABUEL
- CAPITOL HILL - DA-HEE CLAIR KIM
- CHALAN KANOA - REV DOCA
- CHALAN KIYA - ERIC MAHINAN
- CHALAN LAULAU - BWILITOMWAR ELIAS RANGAMAR
- CHALAN PIAO - JULIE ANN CAPAYAS
- DANDAN - MA. ISABELLE ACHAS
- FINASISU - MELINA MAE FAIMAW
- GARAPAN - CHARLIE WANG
- GUALO RAI - ISAAC Y. HAN
- KAGMAN - ROSEMARIE FAISAO
- KANNAT TABLA - KRISTINA ACHAS
- KOBLERVILLE - DESTINY CAMACHO
- MARPI - JAPHET J. DINO
- NAVY HILL - JEMIMA A. CORPUZ
- OLEAI - HOPE ODOSHI
- PAPAGO - JUSTIN WEAVER
- PUERTO RICO - MARVIN CABRERA
- SADOG TASI - JOZEL SANCHEZ
- SAN ANTONIO - CHRISTANELLE MERCADO
- SAN ROQUE - ANDREI ARELLANO
- SAN VICENTE - MIKAYELA ARRIOLA
- SUSUPE - SHERRY ZHU
- TANAPAG - RAIANA FERDOUS
- TAPOCHAU - KALISTA KLAVER
- WIRELESS - ALLEN TAMBIGA

"GCEA has become a perfect platform, among others, in the CNMI in supporting our initiatives in the school district. On behalf of the PSS family, I express our most profound appreciation to GCEA for promoting this lifelong opportunity [for] our students. It's the partnership and collaboration with our community partners to ensure our success," Ada said.

GCEA thanks the leadership, administrators, and teachers of PSS for their support and the students of the Marianas who participated in the Marianas Village Flag contest. The Marianas Village Flags will be showcased during the Taste of the Marianas festival and will be displayed during the upcoming Liberation Day Parade. The designs can be viewed on the GCEA website (cnmieconomy.com) and Facebook and Instagram pages (@cnmigov.economy). ***(PR)***

NMPMG Parade of Nations

Health & Wellness

This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Holdings HEALTH IS WEALTH Tan Siu Lin Foundation

US opens COVID vaccine to little kids, shots begin this week

By MIKE STOBBE
AP MEDICAL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—The U.S. on Saturday opened COVID-19 vaccines to infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

The shots will become available this week, expanding the nation's vaccination campaign to children as young as 6 months.

Advisers to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended the vaccines for the littlest children, and the final signoff came hours later from Dr. Rochelle Walensky, the agency's director.

"We know millions of parents and caregivers are eager to get their young children vaccinated, and with today's decision, they can," Walensky said in a statement.

While the Food and Drug Administration approves vaccines, it's the CDC that decides who should get them.

The shots offer young children protection from hospitalization, death and possible long-term complications that are still not clearly understood, the CDC's advisory panel said.

The government has already been gearing up for the vaccine expansion, with millions of doses ordered for distribution to doctors, hospitals and community health clinics around the country.

Roughly 18 million kids will be eligible, but it remains to be seen how many will ultimately get the vaccines. Less than a third of children ages 5 to 11 have done so since vaccination opened up to them last November.

Here are some things to know:

What kinds are available?

Two brands—Pfizer and Moderna—got the green light Friday from the FDA and Saturday from the CDC. The vaccines use the same technology but are being offered at different dose sizes and number of shots for the youngest kids.

Pfizer's vaccine is for children 6 months to 4 years old. The dose is one-tenth of the adult dose, and three shots are needed. The first two are given three weeks apart, and the last at least two months later.

Moderna's is two shots, each a quarter of its adult dose, given about four weeks apart for kids 6 months through 5 years old. The FDA also approved a third dose, at least a month after the second shot, for children with immune conditions that make them more vulnerable to serious illness.

How well do they work?

In studies, vaccinated youngsters developed levels of virus-fighting antibodies as strong as young adults, suggesting that the kid-size doses protect against coronavirus infections.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The U.S. on Saturday opened COVID-19 vaccines to infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

However, exactly how well they work is hard to pin down, especially when it comes to the Pfizer vaccine.

Two doses of Moderna appeared to be only about 40% effective at preventing milder infections at a time when the omicron variant was causing most COVID-19 illnesses. Pfizer presented study information suggesting the company saw 80% with its three shots. But the Pfizer data was so limited—and based on such a small number of cases—that experts and federal officials say they don't feel there is a reliable estimate yet.

Should my little one be vaccinated?

Yes, according to the CDC. While COVID-19 has been the most dangerous for older adults, younger people, including children, can also get very sick.

Hospitalizations surged during the omicron wave. Since the start of the pandemic, about 480 children under age 5 are counted among the nation's more than 1 million COVID-19 deaths, according to federal data.

"It is worth vaccinating even though the number of deaths are relatively rare, because these deaths are preventable through vaccination," said Dr. Matthew Daley, a Kaiser Permanente Colorado researcher who sits on the CDC's advisory committee.

In a statement Saturday, President Joe Biden urged parents to get them for their young children as soon as possible.

Which vaccine should my child get?

Either one, said Dr. Peter Marks, the FDA's vaccine chief.

"Whatever vaccine your health care provider, pediatrician has, that's what I would give my child," Marks said Friday.

The doses haven't been tested against each other, so experts say there's no way to tell if one is better.

One consideration: It takes roughly three months to complete the Pfizer three-shot series, but just one month for Moderna's two shots. So families eager to get children protected quickly might want Moderna.

Who's giving the shots?

Pediatricians, other primary care physicians and children's hospitals are planning to provide the vaccines. Limited drugstores will offer them for at least some of the under-5 group.

U.S. officials expect most shots to take place at pediatricians' offices. Many parents may be more comfortable getting the vaccine for their kids at their regular doctor, White House COVID-19 coordinator Dr. Ashish Jha said. He predicted the pace of vaccination will be far slower than it was for older populations.

"We're going see vaccinations ramp up over weeks and even potentially over a couple of months," Jha said.

Can children get other vaccines at the same time?

It's common for little kids to get more than one vaccine during a doctor's visit.

In studies of the Moderna and Pfizer shots in infants and toddlers, other vaccinations were not given at the same time so there is no data on potential side effects when that happens.

But problems have not been identified in older children or adults when COVID-19 shots and other vaccinations were given together, and the CDC is advising that it's safe for younger children as well.

WHAT IF MY CHILD RECENTLY HAD COVID-19?

About three-quarters of children of all ages are estimated to have been infected at some point. For older ages, the CDC has recommended vaccination anyway to lower the chances of reinfection.

Experts have noted re-infections among previously infected people and say the highest levels of protection occur in those who were both vaccinated and previously infected.

The CDC has said people may consider waiting about three months after an infection to be vaccinated.

MEN'S WELLNESS

Being proactive, annual care key to maintaining health

By CYNTHIA WEISS
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

When thinking about men's health, many people tend to think about heart disease or ailments that that affect men as they age, such as an enlarged prostate or prostate cancer.

But men can suffer from various health issues at any age. June is Men's Health Month and the focus is to encourage men to be proactive about healthy lifestyle choices and seek medical attention early.

"When you look at men and their relationship with physicians, men don't go to the doctor enough. They wait until something is wrong," says Dr. David Thiel, a Mayo Clinic urologist.

The problem with waiting is that a man might be missing the early signs of another health issue. For example, erectile dysfunction is a common ailment that brings men to see their doctor. But Dr. Thiel notes that it may be the first indicator of a more serious health condition.

"It's important for men to know, especially younger men who have erectile dysfunction, that this condition is often associated with other medical conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, blood pressure problems and the like. So erectile dysfunction may not just be erectile dysfunction," explains Dr. Thiel.

"Women do a much better job of annual care for surveillance with things such as cervical cancer, breast cancer and so on. We want men to know it's important for them to do the same. It's important to seek care not only when something is wrong, but also for preventive care."

While concerns about cancer bring many men to the doctor, "heart attack, stroke,diabetes, and hypertension are much more prevalent in the population than prostate cancer," says Dr. Thiel.

Can I get my flu shot and COVID booster at the same time? Yes, but know your symptoms

By NOOR ADATIA
THE SACRAMENTO BEE

A spike in flu cases across the country, along with another COVID-19 surge, is leaving more people vulnerable to catching some form of disease—especially those who aren't vaccinated.

And although the flu is most common during the fall and winter, people remain susceptible to influenza year round, including in June.

Are flu cases up?

While the flu typically stops circulating around late April, the U.S. is "technically still in flu season" this year, said Dr. Natacsha Tuznik, associate professor of infectious diseases at UC Davis.

In fact, the flu is experiencing "increased activity" in some parts of the country, such as in Nevada and New Mexico, according to the Centers for Disease Control. There is no clear cut reason as to why this is the case, she said.

"In the last two weeks, it has started to slow down, but we are definitely seeing an extended length of influenza infections and later spikes than we have in the previous years," Tuznik said.

People traveling internationally, she said, are especially susceptible to catching the flu. Tuznik strongly recommends patients with travel plans abroad to get a flu shot.

Can I get my COVID booster and flu shot at the same time?

An uptick in COVID-19 cases and increased eligibility for the booster shot has led some people to consider receiving additional doses. The FDA authorized a second booster in late March for adults 50 or older and immunocompromised individuals ages 12 and over, and the Pfizer booster in May for healthy children ages 5 to 11.

It is "absolutely okay" for people to get their flu shot and a COVID-19 vaccine or booster at the same time.

"There are no recommendations on any sort of interval period," Tuznik said.

Although there is no medical reason to not receive both vaccines in the same visit, people who react strongly to the COVID vaccine or flu shot may want to wait a few days in between, she said.

Most people who have gotten vaccinated for COVID-19 are aware of the symptoms they've experienced in the past and should keep them in mind before getting boosted, the medical doctor advised.

Some people have reported more robust symptoms to COVID vaccines, experiencing high fevers and soreness that may leave them incapacitated for a few days.

"If patients know they're going to have a stronger response to the COVID booster, then I maybe wouldn't get them at the same time and wait until their symptoms from the booster have waned or gone away..." she said.

People who receive the flu shot can anticipate soreness around the injection site and may experience flu-like symptoms including a low-grade fever, sore muscles and runny nose.

Life & Style

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Dolly Parton gives $1M to infectious disease research, again

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Dolly Parton is donating $1 million to pediatric infectious disease research at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, the organization announced on Wednesday. The new gift is one of several Parton has made to the center over the years, including a $1 million gift in April 2020 for COVID vaccine research. That gift helped Vanderbilt researchers test an array of drugs aimed at reducing the life-threatening symptoms associated with COVID-19, the center said in a news release. Researchers are also looking at entirely new therapies to both treat COVID-19 and prevent infection. Parton's new gift will support a variety of ongoing research at the medical center, including understanding how viruses and bacteria cause disease, understanding and preventing antibiotic resistance, preventing and treating infections, diagnosing and treating infections in children with cancer, and gauging the impact of childhood infections throughout the world, according to the news release.

James Patterson sorry for saying white writers face racism

NEW YORK (AP)—James Patterson is apologizing for saying that white male writers are being subjected to "just another of form of racism," comments the best-selling author had made during an interview with The Sunday Times in London. Facing widespread criticism on social media, Patterson tweeted this week that "I absolutely do not believe that racism is practiced against white writers. Please know that I strongly support a diversity of voices being heard—in literature, in Hollywood, everywhere." Patterson, promoting his memoir "James Patterson: The Stories of My Life," told the Times in a story which ran last weekend that he worried that white men were having difficulties finding work in film and publishing, calling it a "just another form of racism. "Can you get a job?" he wondered. "Yes. Is it harder? Yes. It's even harder for older writers."

Lawyers urge leniency at sentencing for Ghislaine Maxwell

NEW YORK (AP)—Lawyers for British socialite Ghislaine Maxwell told a judge Wednesday that she should face no more than four to five years in prison for her sex trafficking conviction and role in financier Jeffrey Epstein's decade-long sex abuse of teenage girls. They said in a Manhattan federal court submission that Maxwell deserves leniency, calling it "a travesty of justice for her to face a sentence that would have been appropriate for Epstein," who took his own life as he was awaiting a federal sex trafficking trial in New York in 2019. "Epstein was the mastermind, Epstein was the principal abuser, and Epstein orchestrated the crimes for his personal gratification," the lawyers wrote. "Indeed, had Ghislaine Maxwell never had the profound misfortune of meeting Jeffrey Epstein over 30 years ago, she would not be here."

Letters sent to García Márquez to be shown in Mexico City

MEXICO CITY (AP)—While reviewing the photo archives left by Nobel Prize-winning Colombian author Gabriel García Márquez, one of his granddaughters came across a mysterious plastic box with the word "grandchildren" written on its label. At first, Emilia García Elizondo was afraid to open the box but curiosity overcame her. Inside were 150 unpublished letters that he received from Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, former U.S. President Bill Clinton, Cuban President Fidel Castro and actor Robert Redford, among others. Forty of the letters will be exhibited for two months starting June 16 in the colonial house in the southern part of Mexico's capital where García Márquez lived with his wife, Mercedes Barcha, from the 1980s until his death in 2014. The exhibition is part of celebrations for the 40th anniversary of his winning the Nobel literature prize. Another event, which includes the exhibition "Gabriel García Márquez: The Making of a Global Writer," will open June 18 in Mexico's Museum of Modern Art.

Mo'Nique, Netflix reportedly settle her suit alleging bias

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mo'Nique and Netflix reportedly have settled her lawsuit that accused the streaming service of racial and sexual discrimination for allegedly making her a lowball offer for a proposed comedy special. The matter has been "amicably resolved," Michael Parks, an attorney representing Mo'Nique in the suit, told The Hollywood Reporter. The terms of the settlement between the streaming giant and the comedian and Oscar-winning actor weren't disclosed Wednesday, when they jointly filed in a Los Angeles federal court for the case's dismissal. Netflix didn't respond to a request for comment, and the law firm representing the company in the suit declined comment. Mo'Nique's lawsuit said Netflix officials warmly praised her work before they offered her $500,000 in early 2018 for a comedy special and refused to negotiate further. Her suit said that reflected a company tendency to underpay Black women.

Beyoncé announces new album 'Renaissance' to drop July 29

NEW YORK (AP)—Beyoncé has revealed the title and release date for her next studio album, with the 16-track "Renaissance" set to drop July 29. The superstar began listing the music and products on her website Thursday and several streaming services, including Tidal and Spotify, also announced the Beyoncé release. Beyoncé tipped off fans that something important was coming when she removed her profile photos across all her social media platforms last week. "Renaissance" would be the follow-up to 2016's "Lemonade," but the artist has been hard at work of late, featured on rapper Megan Thee Stallion's remix of "Savage" and opening the 2022 Academy Awards with a performance of her song "Be Alive," from the film "King Richard." In 2019, she curated and produced the soundtrack album "The Lion King: The Gift," for the remake of "The Lion King." The song "Black Parade" from the soundtrack won a Grammy in 2021 for best R&B performance, Beyoncé's 28th Grammy.

Disney's 'Lightyear' banned in Muslim world for lesbian kiss

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Authorities across much of the Muslim world have barred Disney's latest animated film "Lightyear" from being played at cinemas after the inclusion of a brief kiss between a lesbian couple, the company said Thursday as the movie premiered. Thirteen nations and the Palestinian territory barred the Pixar film that has actor Chris Evans voicing the inspiration for the astronaut hero Buzz Lightyear from the "Toy Story" movies, The Walt Disney Co. said. "Lightyear" includes a female character voiced by actress Uzo Aduba briefly kissing her female partner in one scene in the $200 million film. Nations that refused to allow the film to be shown include Bahrain, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria and the United Arab Emirates, Disney said. The UAE, home to Abu Dhabi and Dubai, earlier this week announced it would not allow the film to screen.

Mariah Carey, Neptunes, Lennox in Songwriters Hall of Fame

NEW YORK (AP)—After a glittering career stuffed with No. 1 hits—not to mention a two-year pandemic delay—Mariah Carey was finally inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame on Thursday, but not before challenging her new fellow members to do better by women. "I read that out of the 439 total inductees into the Songwriters Hall of Fame, only 32 have been women, until now," she said Thursday at the end of a four-hour celebration at the Marriott Marquis in New York. The line got a huge applause. Carey was the headliner, following the inductions of the weirdly cool producers the Neptunes, the British electro-pop band Eurythmics, psychedelic bluesman Steve Miller and the iconic Isley Brothers. Special guests included Smokey Robinson, Leslie Odom Jr. Questlove, Jon Batiste and Usher. Songwriters are eligible for induction after writing hit songs for at least 20 years and the hall includes such iconic songwriters as Burt Bacharach, Missy Elliott, Paul McCartney, Bruce Springsteen, Paul Simon, Billy Joel and Carly Simon. New annual slates are voted on by the membership.

Eurovision 2023 won't be held in Ukraine; UK may step in

GENEVA (AP)—The organizer of the Eurovision Song Contest said Friday that it will start talks with the BBC on possibly holding next year's event in the U.K. after concluding that it can't be held in Ukraine. Kyiv said it disagreed with the decision and called for "additional negotiations." The event is traditionally staged by the previous year's winner. Last month, Ukrainian band Kalush Orchestra won the 2022 contest, pushing Britain into the runner-up spot thanks to a surge of popular votes from viewers. The win buoyed Ukrainian spirits amid the Russian invasion. Ukraine's public broadcaster, UA:PBC, has staged the event twice before, in 2005 and 2017. The European Broadcasting Union said it had carried out "a full assessment and feasibility study" on the possibility of it doing so again. It said the contest is one of the world's most complex television productions and needs 12 months of preparation time.

New roommate displays symptoms of dementia

DEAR ABBY: I have had an older man as a roommate for two months now. He's very kind and intelligent. He also has dementia. I didn't realize it when he moved in. He's estranged from his family, although I know of a few people he does talk to on the phone.

As his condition worsens, so does his memory and his ability to understand simple explanations. I'm afraid that, as this continues, I'll be obligated to take care of him. I am not capable of doing it, nor do I desire to. I don't know how to handle this because I have asked him previously whom I should contact "in case of emergency" and got no reply. Help, please.

UNEQUIPPED IN FLORIDA

DEAR UNEQUIPPED: Initiating a conversation with your roommate about your concerns is critical, particularly while he is in EARLY stages of dementia. Be open and honest about your capabilities and find out what his plans are for long-term care as his dementia progresses. Ask if his friends or family know about his dementia and if they are part of his care team.

Stress to him the importance of making future care plans NOW, while he has a voice and control over these decisions. As his dementia progresses, these decisions will become increasingly difficult, and left undone, others might have to make decisions for him. While it's important for you to press for answers to these important questions, try to be supportive. Your roommate may be having trouble coming to grips with his dementia. Fear, anxiety or even anger may be preventing him from taking steps to address it.

The Alzheimer's Association website (alz.org) is a valuable resource for people living with the disease, as well as for their families and care partners. Those in early stages of the disease can find help there, including access to local support groups and care resources. It also has a free 24/7 Helpline (1-800-272-3900) that provides reliable information and guidance for all who need support navigating their personal experiences with Alzheimer's or another dementia.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 32 years. Back in the mid-1990s, my husband cheated on me. A little over a year ago the woman he cheated with reached out to me via social media to apologize. She said she is now sober, has found religion and is trying to mend her wrongdoings. I never responded to her because I didn't know what to say. I don't hate her, but in my mind, if I say I forgive you, it's like I'm agreeing with what she did—and I don't. How do you tell someone you don't forgive them?

APOLOGY NOT ACCEPTED

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR A.N.A.: Nothing requires you to say anything to the woman. However, if you decide to break your silence, the comment you made in your letter, "I don't hate you, but in my mind, if I say I forgive you, it's like I'm agreeing with what you did—and I don't," would suffice. It's succinct, polite and conveys your feelings accurately. But don't hold onto the grudge, because it is not healthy—for you.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

MOM GOT ME SOME CLAY! WANT TO HELP ME MAKE SOMETHING?
DO WE GET SMOCKS? I WANT A SMOCK!
THIS KIND OF CLAY ISN'T THAT MESSY. YOU DON'T NEED A SMOCK.
I WANT A SMOCK!
OK, OK, YOU CAN HAVE A SMOCK!
LET'S GET A MARKER AND WRITE, 'DON'T KNOCK MY SMOCK, OR I'LL CLEAN YOUR CLOCK.'
I GUESS IT WOULDN'T SHOW IF DAD WORE HIS SUIT COAT.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

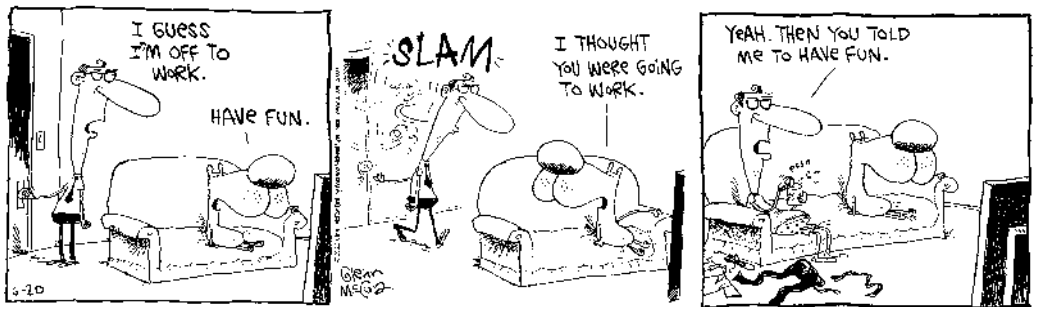
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

COME ON, ADAM.
YOU'RE A WRITER, SO WRITE A BOOK.
BRILLIANT IDEA! BRILLIANT IDEA! BRILLIANT IDEA!
DOES THAT HELP?
WELL, NOTHING ELSE HAS!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

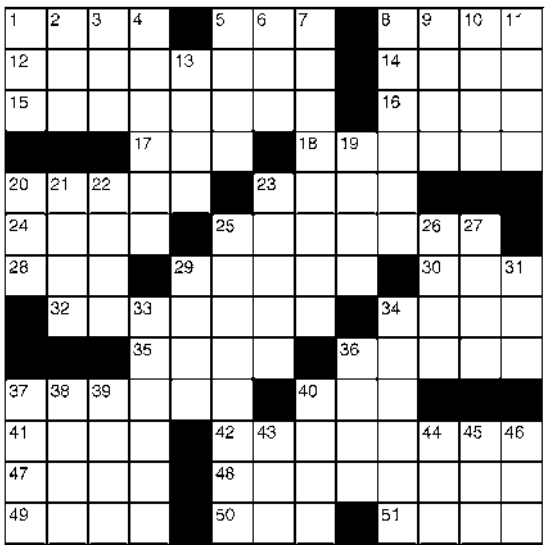
ACROSS
1 Scraps
5 TGIF part
8 Military group
12 Exec's snooze
14 Milne bruin
15 Placid
16 TV host Mike
17 Previously
18 "Everything's fine!"
20 Endorses
23 Old portico
24 Help a crook
25 Decorated the walls
28 Verily
29 Doctrine
30 Actor Danson
32 Alhambra's locale
34 "In the Woods" author French
35 Ethel's pal
36 Leans
37 Venetian marketplace
40 Chest muscle
41 Hotel chain
42 Garbanzo bean
47 Partner
48 Actress Turner
49 Wallet stuffers
50 Bro's kin
51 Sicilian volcano

DOWN
1 Antonym (Abbr.)
2 Caviar base
3 Former Delta rival
4 Trig measure
5 Data
6 Sigma's follower
7 Soup legume
8 Hue and cry
9 Cranny
10 Corn Belt state
11 Yon folks
13 Bylaws, briefly
19 Champagne brand
20 Utter
21 "— to differ!"
22 Hiker's equipment
23 Annie's pooch
25 Showy birds
26 Listending abbr.
27 Fender bender
29 Threaded fastener
31 " — Kapital"
33 Friends in battle
34 Amuse
36 Computer pro
37 Former QB Tony
38 Onenamed supermodel
39 Initial chip
40 Cherry centers
43 "Bali —"
44 Favorite
45 Still, in verse
46 Navarro of "The View"

Solution time: 26 mins.

B	M	W	■	P	O	L	O	■	S	A	G	O
R	O	E	■	A	B	E	L	■	T	R	Y	A
A	R	R	A	S	■	V	F	■	R	E	N	T
■	■	E	R	S	■	■	■	N	E	A	T	H
T	O	R	T	E	■	C	E	C	E	■	■	■
O	P	I	E	■	C	U	R	A	T	I	V	E
R	E	C	■	A	O	R	T	A	■	L	E	A
A	D	H	E	S	■	V	E	■	A	L	E	C
■	■	■	C	A	R	Y	■	S	■	L	S	H
C	H	I	R	P	■	■	A	M	O	S	■	■
L	O	V	E	■	R	E	L	A	T	I	V	E
A	B	E	■	■	G	O	R	■	O	I	L	■
M	O	S	S	■	P	O	E	T	■	N	E	O

Last Friday's Answer 06/20



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5855**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alisan Porter, 41; Nicole Kidman, 55; John Goodman, 70; Lionel Richie, 73.

Happy Birthday: Take a wait-and-see approach. Listen, but question anything that doesn't sound accurate. Back your word with actions. Look at the big picture, but don't take on more than you can handle. Acting on well-thought-out plans with balance and integrity will lead to a safe and prosperous journey. Trust your intelligence and intuition to guide you. Your numbers are 6, 17, 26, 29, 32, 35, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* A noncommittal attitude will stop you from being dragged into or blamed for something that isn't your responsibility. Observe what others do and protect your position and reputation. If you want things done correctly, map out a plan and do the work yourself. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Keep your eye on situations without interfering. Knowing what others are up to will help you make better decisions for yourself. Be secretive regarding your intentions, and use intelligence to avoid anyone you think might stand in your way. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Leave nothing unsaid or undone. Trust in what you know, and use your skills and experience to benefit you financially. Take nothing for granted. Keep your eye on what others do and reveal. Recognize and reject emotional manipulation. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* It's OK to be colorful and share your stories if you are truthful and mindful of others. Everyone won't appreciate a lifestyle or image change you make. Implement ideas that encourage support and ward off conflict. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Learn as you go. Refuse to be a victim of someone's mistake. Don't join in if you have doubts. Concentrate on what you know you can do, and be wise regarding a commitment or an attempt to appease others. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* You'll gravitate toward unusual people and proposals. Listen carefully and be resourceful. Gather facts and figures to substantiate your beliefs before you participate in a joint venture or risky investment. A business partnership will be problematic if you don't share the same vision. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* An emotional incident will cause concern. Take responsibility and mindfully handle matters involving a friend, relative or peer. Discipline and patience will pay off, so don't rush into anything that makes you feel uncomfortable. Do what's right. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* You can have fun and express yourself without overspending. Follow a creative path that helps ease stress and offers an internal view of what's possible. A change of heart will entice you to alter your living arrangements. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Emotional situations will be challenging and confusing. Take your time, and don't let anyone pressure you into something you aren't ready to pursue. Keep an open mind and learn all you can, but do only what makes you feel comfortable. ✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You'll gain perspective regarding finances and how to make a profit. You can think big, but when risks are involved, do your research and leave nothing to chance. Trust your instincts and lower your living expenses. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Put your energy into something concrete. Being a hard worker will get you further than choosing to follow someone. Don't be a lackey; take control and do what furthers your interests. Use your intelligence and experience to get ahead. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Emotions will flare up over domestic issues. Choose your words wisely, and take care of unfinished business before tackling something new. A change someone makes will be to your advantage. Be ready to step in and take over. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are original, colorful and outspoken. You are dedicated and bold.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		3				4		
8	5		9	2	3		6	1
			5		6			
	4	5				1	9	
	7			9			8	
	8	6				3	7	
			2		4			
4	1		6	5	7		3	8
		2				5		

Difficulty Level ★ 6/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

1	9	6	7	8	5	2	4	3
5	3	7	2	4	9	8	6	1
4	8	2	3	1	6	9	5	7
9	4	1	6	7	8	3	2	5
7	6	8	5	2	3	4	1	9
3	2	5	1	9	4	6	7	8
8	1	9	4	5	2	7	3	6
6	5	4	8	3	7	1	9	2
2	7	3	9	6	1	5	8	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

POSITANO, ITALY — Solution: 8 letters

S	S	T	E	H	C	O	R	C	H	U	R	C	H	C
L	P	C	A	R	T	I	S	A	N	S	T	A	O	B
O	I	I	I	R	C	R	E	P	P	E	S	U	I	G
N	S	M	A	M	A	O	A	R	M	B	E	A	C	H
R	N	V	E	G	A	L	L	I	V	E	S	P	A	A
E	E	P	F	S	G	R	D	O	L	C	L	A	M	S
L	D	H	I	I	T	I	E	R	R	O	T	A	O	E
A	R	O	L	T	M	O	A	C	C	F	L	A	Z	O
S	A	N	M	A	R	I	N	A	L	F	U	Z	N	T
U	G	E	R	L	T	S	W	E	I	V	E	L	E	N
N	S	Y	T	I	N	T	I	M	F	P	V	I	I	E
S	P	M	S	A	N	T	A	A	F	A	I	N	R	R
E	O	O	A	N	W	O	T	R	S	P	R	E	A	R
T	H	O	O	M	I	R	P	I	I	E	D	N	A	O
S	S	N	C	R	E	S	T	A	U	R	A	N	T	S

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Amalfi, Arienzo, Artisans, Beach, Boats, Capri, Ceramics, Church, Clams, Cliffs, Coast, Colorful, Crochet, Drive, Gardens, Giuseppe, Honeymoon, Italian, Lattari, Life, Limestone, Linen, Maria, Marina, Paper, Pezze, Primo, Pyramid, Restaurants, Salerno, Santa, Shops, Sorrento, Spiaggia, Sunsets, Torre, Town, Trail, Travel, Vespa, Views, Village

Last Friday's Answer: Nanny

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Warriors cap title run, NBA flips the page to 2022-23 season

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

AP

Fireworks explode over Chase Center in San Francisco after the Golden State Warriors defeated the Boston Celtics in Boston in Game 6 of basketball's NBA Finals to win the title, Thursday, June 16, 2022.

A parade awaits in San Francisco to celebrate the champion Golden State Warriors. The NBA draft is a few days away, with presumed top-three picks Jabari Smith, Chet Holmgren and Paolo Banchero set to take their first steps toward realizing their enormous potential. Free agency starts in less than two weeks.

The 2021-22 NBA season is over.

The 2022-23 NBA season seems like it's already here.

The Warriors are back on the NBA mountaintop. Their win over the Boston Celtics in this season's finals capped the league's 75th anniversary celebration and ushered in an offseason that will, as always, start with tons of attention on player movement — or, in some cases, players not moving.

Two-time reigning MVP Nikola Jokic is eligible to receive a $260 million supermax extension from the Denver Nuggets; it's basically a sure thing that it'll be offered and accepted. Phoenix's Devin Booker and Minnesota's Karl-Anthony Towns are in line for $210 million extensions, neither of which will be surprises either.

Then there's the class of younger players in line to secure their first post-rookie-contract paydays: Memphis' Ja Morant, Miami's Tyler Herro, New York's R.J. Barrett and Cleveland's Darius Garland are just some of the names in that group. So, too, is New Orleans' Zion Williamson, which will be an interesting case since he has been healthy enough to play in only 85 games over his first three pro seasons and is constantly questioned about his conditioning.

Zach LaVine, who is expected to remain with the Chicago Bulls, headlines the class of unrestricted free agents. Kyrie Irving, James Harden, Russell Westbrook and Bradley Beal all have player options for next season, all of them worth between $34 million and $43 million.

And then there's LeBron James, about to enter his 20th season — likely the one where he'll catch Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and become the NBA's all-time scoring leader — and soon to be eligible for a two-year extension with the Los Angeles Lakers that'll be worth nearly $100 million for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 seasons.

"When we get to that point, we'll see," James said when the Lakers' season ended.

That point isn't here yet. But it's coming.

THE FAVORITES

According to FanDuel Sportsbook, the Warriors are the favorites to win the 2023 title — just ahead of the Celtics.

Brooklyn is the third choice in odds posted immediately after Game 6 of this year's finals ended, followed by Milwaukee and the Los Angeles Clippers — who get Kawhi Leonard back next season. Phoenix, Miami, Philadelphia, Memphis and Dallas round out the top 10 in the odds posted by FanDuel.

Of course, take any prediction right now with a grain of salt.

When last season ended Brooklyn was the runaway favorite to win the 2022 NBA title. The Nets didn't win a playoff game, getting swept by the Celtics in Round 1.

The second choice by sportsbooks after last season was the Los Angeles Lakers. They didn't even make the playoffs and struggled by almost all possible measures.

For the record, the Warriors had top-five odds of winning this year's title by most oddsmakers when last season ended at around 12-1. The Celtics were in the middle of the pack, at around 40-1.

SUMMER LEAGUE

All 30 teams will be in Las Vegas from July 7-17 for the NBA Summer League, which—before the pandemic slowed momentum —was routinely drawing big crowds, and the belief is it'll get back to that again this summer.

There are two other smaller events, hosted by the Warriors and the Utah Jazz, before the Vegas league.

RULE CHANGE

Farewell, take foul.

It's expected that at league meetings in Las Vegas next month that owners will approve a new way of adjudicating the oft-maligned "transition take foul" and bring stiffer penalties to such plays starting next season.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver told The Associated Press earlier this month that he's confident the change will be made. It's a topic that the NBA and its competition committee have been studying for several seasons.

The way such fouls have been officiated in the G League since 2018 is this: When a defender commits a take foul, which is one where no play on the ball is made but doesn't rise to the level of a clear path foul, the fouled team retains possession and gets one free throw before play resumes. The clear path foul results in two shots and the ball.

COACHING SEARCH

The only team without a head coach right now is the Utah Jazz, who have asked permission to interview several assistants from around the league.

Charlotte, officially, has not yet confirmed the hiring of Golden State assistant Kenny Atkinson as its new coach — but that deal will be announced now at any time. He's one of two Warriors assistants that are leaving the champions, with Mike Brown departing to take over as coach of the Sacramento Kings.

JOHN WALL'S FUTURE

The Houston guard didn't play this season while the Rockets tried to find a trade partner. It's entirely possible that the same sentence could be used at this time next year.

Wall was selected for the NBA All-Star Game in five consecutive seasons from 2014 through 2018. Since the last of those selections 4 1/2 seasons ago, he has played in exactly 82 games — the equivalent of one NBA season — while making $150 million in salary.

Wall holds a $47.4 million option for next season, which he almost certainly will accept since no team will give him remotely close to that after his injury situations — most notably heel surgery that was followed by Achilles surgery — in recent years.

After good rise, Tatum, Celtics fall flat late in NBA Finals

BOSTON (AP)—When Jayson Tatum made consecutive baskets to cap a game-opening Boston blitz, TD Garden was at its absolute loudest.

It sure got quiet in a hurry.

So did Tatum.

After climbing back to the top of the Eastern Conference, the Celtics fell flat in the latter stages of the NBA Finals. The Golden State Warriors won the final three games, taking the title with a 103-90 victory in Game 6 on Thursday night.

"It's just tough getting to this point and not accomplishing what we want to," Tatum said. "It hurts."

He wouldn't say if his right shoulder did, after he occasionally grabbed at during the postseason. But he just wasn't strong with the ball or accurate with his shot the way he was during some sensational performances earlier.

"It was just a tough night," Tatum said.

It was the first three-game skid for the Celtics since December, back when they were a faltering, sub-.500 team that looked nothing like a contender.

Instead, they became one of the best teams in the league, in part because of the brilliance of Tatum, who was voted first-team All-NBA for the first time.

But he finished with just 13 points on 6-for-18 shooting in Game 6, with only one basket in the second half.

"One thing that he's always done throughout the season was seeing multiple different coverages and figured it out. He did that throughout the first few series. This was a rough one," Celtics coach Ime Udoka said. "Very consistent team that did some things to limit him and make others pay."

Tatum was sharp at the start, with the final five points in the opening 14-2 run. He added a third basket in the first quarter to give the Celtics a 22-16 lead, but that was their last points before getting overrun by an avalanche of 21 straight Golden State points.

That made it 37-22 early in the second quarter, leaving Celtics fans in stunned silence — which was broken later in the quarter when they even booed the home team.

The Celtics kept fighting and got the fans back into it but never got particularly close in the second half, in part because of Tatum's passiveness and ineffectiveness. Some fans cried out for him to go get the ball, but even when he did, it just didn't work out down the stretch.

He had a shot blocked midway through the fourth after the Celtics had climbed all the way back into single digits. Then he was called for traveling with 3:55 to go as they were running out of chances and had no time for any more mistakes.

The Celtics' problems went beyond Tatum. Too many turnovers sometimes, too much bad execution in others. They were outscored 57-39 in the fourth quarters of Games 4 and 5, perhaps fatigued from a long playoff run.

They needed seven games to beat the Bucks in the second round — with Tatum scoring 46 to stave off elimination in Game 6 in Milwaukee — and seven more to get by Miami in the Eastern Conference finals. That put them in the NBA Finals for the first time since 2010.

But the 18th banner that would put them back on top of the league will have to wait.

Next time, perhaps Tatum and the Celtics will be better. They just weren't good enough now. And it's not like Tatum is unproven in big moments — he was massive for USA Basketball last summer in the gold-medal game win over France.

When it was all over Thursday night, Jaylen Brown said he gave Tatum a hug. They became a strong 1-2 tandem, but Brown had to do much of it alone at the end.

"I know it was a tough last game. I know, obviously, it was a game we felt like we could have won," Brown said. "It stings that we kind of didn't play to our potential, this game, the last game on our home floor. But it is what it is. You got to learn from it and move on. As tough as it is, it's been a great year, been a great journey."

Cubs' 1-0 win ends 10-game skid, Braves' 14-game win streak

CHICAGO (AP)—The Chicago Cubs stopped the Atlanta Braves' 14-game winning streak and ended their own 10-game skid with a 1-0 victory Friday behind rookie Christoper Morel's eight-inning sacrifice fly.

A pair of double-digit streaks had not ended in the same game since Philadelphia beat Houston on Sept. 15, 1999, ending the Phillies' skid at 11 and the Brewers' winning streak at 12.

Chris Martin (1-0) pitched a perfect eighth for his first win for the Cubs. A.J Minter (2-1) was the loser.

AP

Chicago Cubs' P.J. Higgins, left, celebrates with Christopher Morel after they defeated the Atlanta Braves in a baseball game in Chicago, Friday, June 17, 2022.

Yankees 12, Blue Jays 3

In Toronto, Anthony Rizzo capped the Yankees' eight-run fifth inning with a grand slam off the facing of the third deck in right, and New York extended its winning streak to eight games.

Giancarlo Stanton, DJ LeMahieu, and Joey Gallo also homered for the Yankees, who lead the major leagues with 105 home runs and are off to the best start since 1998 at 48-16.

Jordan Montgomery (3-1) allowed two runs and three hits in six innings to improve to 3-0 in his last five outings.

Ross Stripling (3-2) led 1-0 in the fourth, extending his shutout streak to 16 2/3 innings. He gave up two runs and five hits in 3 2/3 innings.

Alejandro Kirk hit his sixth home run in the sixth as the Blue Jays lost to the Yankees for the seventh time in 10 games this year.

Mariners 8, Angels 1

In Seattle, Robbie Ray lost a no-hitter with two outs in the seventh inning on a grounder that bounced off his glove in Seattle's victory over Los Angeles.

Ray lost his bid when Max Stassi hit a high chopper toward the mound that went right over the pitcher's head. The reigning AL Cy Young Award winner didn't jump, and the ball skipped off the top of his glove, giving Stassi time to beat out an infield single.

Ray finished the seventh and came back out for the eighth, when Juan Lagares led off with a triple and scored on Andrew Velazquez's double. Ray (6-6) was pulled after that, charged with a run three hits and a walk with 10 strikeouts.

Julio Rodriguez had three hits, Ty France drove in three and Cal Raleigh hit his eighth homer of the season for Seattle.

The Angels finished the night with four hits, two of them from Stassi. Michael Lorenzen (6-4) took the loss, allowing seven earned runs on seven hits, with three strikeouts and three walks.

Guardians 2, Dodgers 1, 10 innings

In Los Angeles, Richie Palacios hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the 10th inning after Anthony Gose escaped a jam in the ninth, and Cleveland beat Los Angeles for its season-best fifth straight win.

Andrés Giménez had two hits, José Ramirez hit safely in his ninth straight game and Owen Miller scored the go-ahead run in the 10th as the automatic runner, helping Cleveland win despite having just one hit after the fourth inning.

Cody Bellinger homered and Trea Turner had three hits for the Dodgers to extend his hitting streak to 10 games.

Gose (3-0) earned the victory. Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw, making his second start since returning from a back injury, allowed one run and five hits in five innings. The left-hander threw 56 of 81 pitches for strikes, and gave up one walk with four strikeouts.

Evan Phillips (1-3) took the loss.

Phillies 8, Nationals 7, 10 innings, game 2
Phillies 5, Nationals 3, game 1

In Washington, J.T. Realmuto hit a go-ahead two-run single in the 10th inning with the aid of an obstruction call and Philadelphia completed a doubleheader sweep of Washington for its 14th victory in 16 games.

Bryce Harper had three hits against his old team, helping the Phillies win the opener.

Josh Bell homered twice in the nightcap and three times on the day for the Nationals.

Matt Vierling's first multihomer game helped the Phillies in the second game, when Washington's losing streak stretched to seven.

Philadelphia's José Alvarado (1-1) earned the win. Washington fell to an NL-worst 23-45. The Nationals have lost 10 of 12 overall and 10 consecutive home games to the Phillies.

In the first game, Nick Castellanos hit a two-run double in the first off Joan Adon as the Phillies built an early 4-0 lead. Brad Hand worked out of a two-on, one-out jam in the ninth for his second save.

Ranger Suárez (5-4) allowed three runs in 5 2/3 innings as the teams made up a game postponed by the lockout. Adon (1-11), summoned as the Nationals' 27th man, allowed four runs in five innings while extending his major league lead in losses.

Orioles 1, Rays 0

In Baltimore, Dean Kremer pitched six scoreless innings and rookie Adley Rutschman singled home the game's only run in the seventh as Baltimore sent Tampa Bay to its fourth straight loss.

Kremer allowed five hits and matched the six scoreless frames thrown by Tampa Bay's Shane Baz. Then Ryan Mountcastle hit a one-out double off Calvin Faucher (0-1), and Rutschman followed with a single to center.

Félix Bautista (3-2) struck out the side in the seventh for the Orioles and retired all four of his batters to earn the win. Jorge López picked up his 10th save in 12 chances.

Brewers 5, Reds 4

In Cincinnati, Keston Hiura hit a tiebreaking home run off Ross Detwiler in the seventh inning and Milwaukee beat Cincinnati in a battle of long balls.

Hunter Renfroe's three-run homer in the fourth and Willy Adames' solo shot in the fifth built a 4-0 lead against Hunter Greene on a night every run scored on a homer.

Albert Almora Jr. hit a two-run homer in the fifth, and Brandon Drury and Tommy Pham followed with solo drives in the sixth on Eric Lauer's first two pitches of the inning to tie the score 4-4.

Detwiler (0-1) entered with one out in the seventh and Hiura, the No. 9 batter, hit a first-pitch fastball the opposite way to right-center.

Lauer (6-2) gave up four runs and six hits in 6 1/3 innings. Brad Boxberger earned his first save since Aug. 2.

Giants 2, Pirates 0

In Pittsburgh, Carlos Rodón scattered two hits over eight innings and San Francisco edged Pittsburgh.

Rodón (6-4) won his second straight start after striking out eight with two walks as the Giants sent the Pirates to their 10th loss in 11 games. Camilo Doval worked a perfect ninth for his 10th save.

Luis González took the game's third pitch from Zach Thompson (3-5) and sent it over the right-field seats for his third home run. Joc Pederson hit his 14th homer leading off the fourth.

Thompson issued a career-high five walks while losing for the first time in almost a month.

Rangers 7, Tigers 0

In Detroit, Jonah Heim doubled, homered and drove in three runs and Texas sent Detroit to its sixth straight loss.

Jon Gray (2-3) pitched seven scoreless innings to end a five-start winless streak. He struck out six and did not walk a batter.

Tigers ace Tarik Skubal (5-4) allowed five runs on eight hits in five innings. The Tigers have been outscored 43-7 in the six losses and have scored one run in their last 35 innings.

Heim had a two-run double in the first and hit his eighth homer of the season in the fifth.

Red Sox 6, Cardinals 5

In Boston, Michael Wacha pitched neatly into the sixth inning against his former team and Boston shut down St. Louis' rally in the ninth.

The NL Central-leading Cardinals trailed 6-1 going into the ninth and reliever Austin Davis retired the first two batters. St. Louis loaded the bases and reliever Tanner Houck gave up an RBI double to Tommy Edman that made it 6-3 and a two-run double to Brendan Donovan.

Paul Goldschmidt then was called out on strikes, giving Houck his third save.

Trevor Story and Rafael Devers each drove in two runs for Boston. Nolan Arenado hit his 12th homer for the Cardinals.

Wacha (5-1) struck out five and allowed one run on six hits and a walk in 5 1/3 innings. He struck out five.

Adam Wainwright (5-5) went 6 1/3 innings, giving up four runs on seven hits and a walk.

Mets 10, Marlins 4

In New York, Francisco Lindor homered after being surprised by his mom's first visit to see him at Citi Field, Pete Alonso slugged a grand slam in the sixth inning and New York beat Miami.

Lindor's wife, Katia, surprised her husband by flying in his mother, Maria Serrano, for her first visit to New York since Lindor was acquired from Cleveland in January 2021.

Lindor pointed to his family in the suites after hitting a three-run homer in the first inning off Pablo López (4-3). The Puerto Rican star was later hit by two pitches — including one with the bases loaded.

Carlos Carrasco (8-2) allowed three runs on eight hits with two walks and seven strikeouts in 6 1/3 innings.

Jorge Soler, Garrett Cooper and Avisaíl García had two hits apiece for the Marlins, who outhit the Mets 10-9.

Astros 13, White Sox 3

In Houston, Michael Brantley's grand slam was one of three homers in a 10-run sixth inning that propelled Houston past Chicago.

Yordan Alvarez and Kyle Tucker also homered in the sixth on a night when the Astros hit five homers and tied a season high for runs. Alex Bregman (two-run homer) and Yuli Gurriel (solo homer) added blasts, and Tucker had an RBI double, extending his hitting streak to a career-long 15 games, the longest active run in the majors.

Rockies 10, Padres 4

In Denver, C.J. Cron homered twice among his three hits and drove in five runs, Randal Grichuk also went deep and Colorado snapped a seven-game home losing streak.

Charlie Blackmon added three hits for the Rockies, including a run-scoring triple and RBI single.

Trent Grisham homered for San Diego, which lost its eighth straight to the Rockies at Coors Field.

Rookie MacKenzie Gore (4-3) had another rough outing against the Rockies. He went four-plus innings and was tagged for a career-high eight runs on nine hits, including both of Cron's homers and Grichuk's three-run drive in the bottom of the fourth.

Diamondbacks 7, Twins 2

In Phoenix, Jordan Luplow homered twice to back Madison Bumgarner and Arizona beat Minnesota.

Bumgarner (3-6) labored through his first three innings, giving up eight hits but limiting the Twins to two runs. The veteran left-hander then permitted just one hit in the next three innings before being relieved, finishing with three strikeouts and a walk in 103 pitches over six innings.

Byron Buxton hit his 19th home run of the season on the second pitch of the game, a 446-foot blast to the back of the left-field stands for Minnesota.

Royals 5, Athletics 1

In Oakland, Calif., Daniel Lynch had a career-high 10 strikeouts in five innings to win for the first time in nearly two months, and Kansas City prevailed over Oakland in a matchup of teams with the worst records in the major leagues.

Salvador Perez doubled and homered for the Royals. Whit Merrifield added three hits, while Andrew Benintendi and Michael A. Taylor each had two to send the A's to their 21st loss in 24 home games.

Lynch (3-6) allowed four hits and struck out the side in the third and fifth.

Coach sees Games as opportunity to further promote badminton

Winning a medal or two may be a daunting task with powerhouse badminton players from Tahiti and New Caledonia entered in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022, but CNMI national badminton coach James Digno said his youthful squad is up to the challenge.

"I'm pretty sure we can win, if not gold, silver at least," he said, adding that he expects to have a very high level of matches since it's the first Mini Games badminton competition held in the CNMI.

More than a podium finish, Digno also wants his players to represent the CNMI and badminton as best they could as ambassadors of the sport.

"Our goal for this Mini Games is to hopefully spread the sport of badminton because it's a very fun game contrary to what a lot of people say about badminton. I hope to bring the motivation and hype to the sport itself and to make people get interested in the sport. We're always looking for players."

Last week also saw the team finally have their first practice sessions at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium that will serve them well as the badminton competition in the Games starts today.

"The practices have been OK, but not ideal but it's good enough because the Ada Gym was under renovation when we needed to practice. We used to practice at the TSL Multi-Purpose Gymnasium but they couldn't really fully practice there because the ceilings are lower and the birdie would always hit the ceiling," he said.

Despite their limited time at the Games' venue, Digno is glad that the national team is preparing for the Games with a full head of steam.

"The team has been working really hard and they always show up to practice. I couldn't ask for more."

Assisting Digno on the team are Paulo Jerome N. Quidato and Patricia Surima with Nathan Guerrero serving as team captain.

ANGEL LI

From left, CNMI National Badminton Team captain Nate Guerrero, assistant coaches Patricia Surima and Paolo Quidato, and head coach James Digno pose inside the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, the venue for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

For Guerrero, he wants the CNMI to finally win a medal in the sport as doing so would open doors for a lot of them in the future.

"I hope everybody comes and support every sport and all the NMI athletes during the Games. Come and watch, come and cheer. Come on and come all. We'd love to see everybody," he said.

Aside from Guerrero, who represented the islands in the Samoa Pacific Games in 2019, also in the men's team are fellow Pacific Games veterans Andreau Galvez, Jordan Pangilinan, and siblings Ezekiel and Daniel Macario, and Leonard Isaiah Manuel.

In the women's side, Janelle Pangilinan will suit up for the national team anew after debuting in the Pacific Games three years ago. She will have Jenine Savellano, Jeanelyn Cardinio, Windy Ann Fernandez, and sisters Michaella and Mikamaika Serrano as teammates. ***(Angel Li)***

CNMI

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ITF Tour veteran and lost faster than you can say "match point," 6-0, 6-1.

Luckily by the time Sinclair was putting on the finishing touches on his demolition job of Vanautu's No. 2 singles player, Schorr was up and about and ready to play in the rubber doubles to decide the men's gold medal.

Obviously miffed at the haste Vanuatu wanted to proceed to the doubles game, Sinclair and Schorr sent a signal that the latter was fully recovered from his severe cramping and didn't surrender a single game to Mainguy and Mara in the opening set, 6-0.

Vanuatu regained some of their bearings in the second set and managed to take two games against the CNMI, but the result was inevitable as Sinclair and Schorr won the gold medal with plenty to spare, 6-2.

CNMI national tennis coach Jeff Race was ecstatic after the sport he nurtured the better part of the last 30 years on the islands won the CNMI's first gold of the Games.

"Our first gold for the CNMI and we're so happy. The players are so excited to be here and Robbie and Colin coming in here and playing with the support of the crowd and our team was fantastic. For me personally, it's a lifelong dream to win a gold medal like this at home and happy that we can share this with everybody here in the CNMI."

The NMSA Hall of Famer also thanked the medial team, led by Dr. Martin Rohringer, for treating Schorr's severe cramping.

"I was so happy because I was out here with Colin while Robbie was getting treatment and when I went back, Robbie was running back and forth and he was jumping up and down. The medical team did a great job on him. They got him back on his feet, massaged, taped up, and rehydrated. When I went over there and I saw him looking so good I had a ton of confidence in my doubles team and they came through spectacularly."

Sinclair simply said that he's happy they won the gold after an exhaustive day on the tennis courts.

"It's been a long day. We had Robbie on an IV drip before the doubles because he was cramping in his singles match. It was an awesome effort by Robbie to be just out there on the court and for him to play so well. It's exciting to play in front of the people I grew up with and family and friends it's really special and they helped us to a victory this day."

On Vanuatu's gamesmanship in getting the second singles match over as quickly as possible, Sinclair shrugged it off and said it's all part of the game.

"It's a little bit strategic. They knew Robbie was obviously cramping in his singles so it's a strategy to the sport. They wanted to get on with the doubles really quickly but it didn't work thanks to the medical staff here. I play Davis Cup every year with them. I think Aymaric also was a little tired today because it was a very long day and I'm happy they got the silver."

For Schorr, there was no way he was going to be subbed out in the do-or-die doubles game.

"To be honest, at the beginning of the second set, I felt a cramp moving from my backhand side to my forehand side and I just didn't want to make it worse and that's why I just finished the match and went over there and got treatment. I knew I was coming back though and I knew I'm going to fight back to get into the court and give it my all for everyone,"

Like Race, he also thanked the staff at the medical tent for getting him ready for the deciding doubles match.

"I actually felt great [after the IV drip]. Physio did wonders. They did a lot of stuff and some of the doctors made an IV and I feel great. Shout out to them for making me come back here. I also want to dedicate this gold medal to my family and everyone who showed up, my teammates and coaches at William Woods, just everyone who brought me to this," he said.

The gold-medal winning CNMI men's team is also made up Colin Ramsay and Bobby Cruz, who also serves as assistant coach.

In the bronze medal game, Tahiti beat Fiji, 2-0, after Gillian Osmont won over William O'Connell, 6-2, 6-1, and Reynald Taaroa clinched the tie with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Sebastian Tikaram.

For the women, the CNMI unfortunately missed a podium finish when Isabel Heras and Asia Raulerson narrowly dropped the rubber doubles, 6-3, 7-6 (9), against Ela Vakaukamea and Ana Finau Tamanika of Tonga. After Raulerson lost the first singles against Vakaukamea, 6-2, 3-6, 4-6, Heras forced a deciding doubles with a 6-4, 6-0 triumph over Tamanika.

With tennis awarding medals, the CNMI and PNG find themselves atop the medal count each with one gold each, followed by Fiji and Vanuatu with a silver apiece and Tahiti and Tonga with matching bronzes. Tennis started the singles part of its events yesterday and more medals are expected to be awarded today as *va'a,* triathlon (Rota), and weightlifting get underway.

PNG

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my family," said the 29-year-old from Port Moresby.

Violet, who actually was PNG's No. 1, said the gold medal was made more special since she won with family.

"Feels great and to do it alongside my family it's a great experience. My aunt started it all and I've always looked up to her and I'm just trying to follow in her footsteps," said the 22-year-old would-be transferee to Texas Christian University.

PNG tennis coach Mark Lewis said the gold medal in the Games is a culmination of all the hard work and perseverance PNG Tennis went through the past seven years.

"First medal here and first visit to this beautiful island. I've been involved with PNG since 2015 where we turned around tennis in that nation… This group has been together since 2015. Some of these players have been with us since 2015 like Matthew Stubbings and the Apisah family is legendary in tennis and they're unbelievable. They just lost a grandad but the network has stayed together."

For Lewis, PNG Tennis' success proves that conquering the plague of sedentary youth glued to their mobile phone and game consoles can be won.

"The biggest thing that's coming out of the Games moving around the Pacific is that everywhere I go is I keep talking to the countries to recognize the development of children."

He said there's two things in the Pacific that need to be pushed—one is education and two is involvement in sports.

"I listened to a mom apologize to me yesterday because her daughter couldn't catch the ball when it was rolled to her at the side and it's her first experience as a ball girl… That's an indictment on all of us to reach out to our political groups, our businesses, our sporting network, our education network as children need to get off the screen and back to hand-and-eye exercises."

SPLITS

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were batted in by Ben Jones Jr. who brought in Lamarc Iguel and Anthony Tenorio, who also made contact and brought in Dennis Cabrera at the bottom of the fifth inning.

During a double play attempt by Team NMI, the safe call by the second base umpire was disputed by NMI coaches. After a couple minutes of deliberation, the double play was confirmed which led to cheers from the home crowd.

As the game went on, Palau batters made contact with almost every pitch and that brought about a third pitching change for Team NMI as John Peter Sablan was sent in relief in the fourth inning.

Sablan still couldn't hold Palau back as the visitors scored four more runs which led to the final score of 13-2.

In the bottom of the sixth inning, Team NMI actually tried but failed to score any more runs and the game was called off via the 10-run mercy rule.

After the game, Team NMI head coach Derron Flores accepted their defeat against Palau after a great run against Guam. He said there was a missed call in the first inning that cost the team a ball when the umpire called a 12-second count on their pitcher. Flores explained that they are using Major League Baseball rules when there's no rules on when the pitcher should release the ball.

He didn't take anything away from how good Palau played though.

"Palau came out prepared... Palau came out to play. We just fell short. We accept this defeat, and it will only make us better. We're going to come out strong on Monday and come back on the winning side."

Last Thursday, the CNMI beat Guam in a game that seemed to have brought the whole island in attendance to witness the rivalry between the neighboring islands.

Prior to the game, the opening ceremony rededicated the newly reconstructed baseball field in honor of Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios wherein his family members graced the field and took photos to commemorate the moment.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres threw out the ceremonial first pitch to Team NMI catcher Franko Nakamura and the field and teams were then blessed by Bishop Ryan Jimenez.

The first game saw Team NMI lead after A.J. Lizama hit two runs in. Afterwards, Nakamura hit a solo homerun that extended Team NMI's lead, 3-0. The homerun was greeted with an eruption of cheers and applause from spectators all around the field and could be heard by motorists passing Beach Road.

Pitcher Joshua Jones had an almost perfect game when he struck out 14 and allowed Guam only one hit and one run.

The only player from Guam who hit against the ace pitcher and scored a run was Javen Pangelinan, who put up one run against the NMI for a score of 3-1.

Finally, Anthony Tenorio scored the last run for a score of 4-1 in favor of the NMI.

In an interview with Nakamura on his solo homer, he said "It just happened. See the ball, hit the ball… I stopped at third base and thought, "what just happened?"

Joshua Jones was also interviewed on the great game he pitched and said "I've never pitched with so many people out… my teammates had my back and I got their back. We're not done yet."

Team NMI's next game is today against Fiji at 2pm at the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Warriors cap title run, NBA flips the page to 2022-23 season

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CNMI men's team golden in tennis

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The CNMI men's national tennis team overcame severe cramping by its No. 2 player and some gamesmanship on the part of Vanuatu to win the gold medal in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 last Saturday at the American Memorial Park.

Robbie Schorr gave Davis Cup veteran Clement Mainguy all he could handle in the first set, but ultimately succumbed to severe cramps at the start of the second and lost, 6-4, 6-0.

The Pacific William Woods University varsity player and coach Jeff Race immediately made a beeline to the medical tent after the match where he was put on an IV drip to recover following a failed search for pickle juice.

In the second singles match, Colin Sinclair took on Aymeric Mara who went down early and often against the

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MARK RABAGO

The CNMI men's national tennis team, from left, Colin Ramsay, Colin Sinclair, coach Jeff Race, Robbie Schorr, and Bobby Cruz celebrate after winning the gold medal in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 last Saturday at the American Memorial Park tennis court.

PNG wins first medal of the Games

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Papua New Guinea won the first medal of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 after its women's team struck gold medal in the tennis competition Saturday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Pitted against fellow powerhouse Fiji, the women's team led by Abigail Tere-Apisah and her nieces—Violet and Patricia—overwhelmed their opponents, 2-0, in the finals.

Tere-Apisah, who once was ranked as high as No. 276 in the WTA Tour, kicked things off for PNG by blanking Ruby Coffin, 6-0, 6-0.

Violet then turned red to secure the tie after beating Saoirse Breen, 6-2, 6-1, to the delight of the PNG crowd who quickly erupted in celebration.

Tere-Apisah, who just nine months ago became a new mother, said getting the first gold medal of the Games is special for the team.

"It's nice to know that we got the first gold medal of the Games. So that's extra special. I'm just so happy the past couple of months putting in the work on the court and it's so nice to be back and competing, now as a mom and doing it for my country, my son, and

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V. Apisah

Tere-Apisah

MEDAL STANDING

Tem	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Totals
Northern Mariana Islands	1	0	0	1
Papua New Guinea	1	0	0	1
Fiji	0	1	0	1
Vanuatu	0	1	0	1
Tahiti	0	0	1	1
Tonga	0	0	1	1
American Samoa	0	0	0	0
Australia	0	0	0	0
Cook Islands	0	0	0	0
Federated States of Micronesia	0	0	0	0
Guam	0	0	0	0
Kiribati	0	0	0	0
Nauru	0	0	0	0
New Caledonia	0	0	0	0
Norfolk Island	0	0	0	0
Palau	0	0	0	0
Samoa	0	0	0	0
Solomon Islands	0	0	0	0
Tuvalu	0	0	0	0
Wallis & Futuna	0	0	0	0

CNMI splits first two games in baseball

By LEIGH GASES
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LEIGH GASES

Team NMI's Franko Nakamura is congratulated by teammates after his solo home run in the bottom of the fifth inning against Guam last Thursday at the start of the baseball competition of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 at the Francisco "Tan'Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field.

After defeating Guam in a thrilling opening game in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 last Thursday, 4-1, the CNMI National Baseball Team came crashing back to Earth after losing to a dynamite Palau squad, 13-2, last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan'Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Starting pitcher Lorenzo Sebalkim almost couldn't get past Palau's speedy and powerful lineup after giving up five runs in just the first inning.

Relief came with a pitching change when Jacob Babauta was brought in, but even he could not hold back the powerhouse that is Palau as he gave up another four runs that made the score, 9-0.

The NMI finally got some hits against Palau ace pitcher O'Neil Yobech after two runs

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